

THE JOURNAL

Friday, November 30, 2001

50 cents (tax included)

Inside West County child advocate Barbara Alexander dies at age 64 [A13]

Arts It's open house at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre [C3]

Albertson's closing 2 sites, opening new superstore

By J. R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — You may have bought your Thanksgiving turkey at the midtown Albertson's on San Pablo Avenue, but you'll have to shop at the new Plaza Albertson's for your Christmas bird.

Albertson's Inc. has announced it will close its grocery store at 10700 San Pablo Ave. on Monday. Part of the reconstructed Plaza, the new 66,778-square-foot Albertson's superstore, will have its grand opening the next day at 1000 El Cerrito Plaza.

The old Plaza Albertson's, just south of the new store, also will close Monday.

The midtown store's closing doesn't sit well with El Cerrito resident Peter Aguirre, who lives nearby on Schmidt Lane. Aguirre wrote the company's chief executive officer in Boise, Idaho, to complain.

Aguirre cannot walk long distances and likes the current store's location and employees. He claimed the company "destroyed the marketability" of the midtown store by reducing its selection of Asian foods, and said the new Plaza Albertson's is inconvenient and too far away.

"As far as the new store is concerned, that thing might as well be on Mars because I am not shopping there," he said.

Customers of midtown Albertson's say they like the friendly service they receive, the store's convenient location, its smaller size and the fact that it's close to a competing Safeway supermarket.

"I don't know how they're going to handle the handicapped parking, but I usually have a hard time parking around the Plaza," said Richmond resident Katya Rochell, who has a handicapped parking placard and uses a cane. Rochell said she likes the location of the current store, the staff and the layout.

"This is closest to where I live; everybody's nice to me here; I know where everything is. You get in these giant supermarkets and you have to walk and walk."



THE ALBERTSON'S supermarket location in El Cerrito on San Pablo Avenue at Portola Drive will close next week.

JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

See GROCERY, Page A11

14th District Assembly candidates find much to agree on at ECDC forum

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Loni Hancock talked about balancing budgets as the mayor of Berkeley, Charles Ramsey talked about his years on the school board and Dave Brown emphasized his experience as a teacher in the classroom.

The three Democratic candidates for the 14th Assembly District met the voters at a question-and-answer forum Tuesday night sponsored by the El Cerrito Democratic Club.

Although questions from the audience touched on other issues, most focused on education in West County.

After the forum, the ECDC voted to endorse Hancock in the March primary election.

The newly redrawn 14th Assembly District includes Berkeley, El Cerrito, Albany, Kensington, Emeryville, Richmond, San Pablo, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, part of El Sobrante, a small part of Oakland and some unincorporated areas.

The current office-holder, Assemblywoman Dion Aroner, cannot run for re-election because of term limits.

Overall the three Democratic candidates seem to agree on the issues.

"We've done a lot in our school district and I believe we can continue to do more," Ramsey said. "Education is very important and I know those issues."

Hancock said her focus is on the "Three E's — education, the

See ASSEMBLY, Page A11



Assembly candidates Loni Hancock, Dave Brown and Charles Ramsey spoke at the El Cerrito Democratic Club meeting at Northminster Presbyterian Church.

JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

DiPrisco takes stock after a year on the Albany City Council

By Matt Petersen
STAFF WRITER

Halfway into his two-year term, Albany's twentysomething Councilman, Mario DiPrisco, has settled into his role.

He's become known for injecting humor into council meetings, for example one in October at which the community had turned out for a sometimes heated discussion of the complex issues related to the new Eastshore Park.

A community leader was introducing himself by reciting a lengthy list of the community organizations in which he was involved when DiPrisco cheerfully asked, "But what do you really do for the city?"

What DiPrisco himself brings

to the city, besides a sense of humor, is three years of experience as a financial analyst for the San Francisco investment firm Dodge & Cox — fellow Council member Jewel Okawachi calls his financial know-how "his strong suit" — and a vision of Albany as a place that can move forward while retaining its small-town charm.

It's the kind of place, after all, where residents stop his mother (and campaign manager) Susan Conrad, to congratulate her on her son's success.

"What I think is really important," DiPrisco says, "is that Albany ... retains the characteristics that makes it attractive and the way that I think of those characteristics: a place for kids to play, room for kids to ride bikes on, streets for kids to ride bikes on. Things that I remember quite fondly."

DiPrisco, who grew up in Albany, won his Council seat at age 24 with 51.9 percent of the vote, beating two other candidates in a special election held last November after Councilman Ed McManus moved out of town.

While at Georgetown Univer-

sity in Washington, D.C., he successfully campaigned a friend for a neighborhood commission.

He had discovered he liked politics, and when he moved to Los Angeles, he volunteered on Sen. Barbara Boxer's re-election drive in 1998. That's where he learned the tough realities of a big-league campaign.

"It taught me that you have to have so much faith in (your) message," he said. "I saw the amazing limitations of a campaign behind the scenes."

During his own campaign in Albany, DiPrisco outlined his visions of a better "Main Street" (Solano Avenue), restored creeks, more open space, after-school programs and a city that's more technologically savvy.

Part of his vision called for higher-density development along retail corridors with, for instance, more apartments above ground-floor shops along Solano Avenue. These would encourage more pedestrian traffic, help high-end retail stores thrive, and create opportunities to develop more off-street parking, he said.

And though he feels he's made some progress, he's



JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

MARIO DI PRISCO has had a year of experience on the Albany City Council after winning a seat at age 24.

learned that many romantic ambitions often take a back seat to less glamorous municipal needs.

"Like most people that get involved in politics, the spectrum for political action is limited; it's difficult to drive an agenda," he said. "In the end, are rain gutters more important than (technological advances)? Probably so."

Currently, DiPrisco lives the bachelor's life, sharing a Solano Avenue apartment with a plant, which he boasts he's kept alive for the past five months.

Busy developing his nonpolitical career, he's also considering his future in Albany politics, talking to his friends, family and supporters.

He concedes that the biggest change in his life this past year has been his ability to develop a tough outer shell for all the people who said that he was too young and underqualified to help guide a city.

"It's like what Harry Truman said: 'If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.'"

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KNIGHT RIDDER

INFORMATION FOR LIFE

...BRIEF
...Pancake
...breakfast and Toy
...is Dec. 8

...CERRITO — The recre-
...department's annual Holi-
...Breakfast and Toy
...the David Hunter
...Scholarship Fund is
...on Saturday, Dec.
...the Community Center, 7007
...Lane.
...this year's event features the
...visit from Mr. and
...Santa Claus, and a new ad-
...puppet show perfor-
...of "The Nutcracker" at
...11 a.m. Please bring a new,
...toy for the firelight-
...drive for underprivileged

...tickets are \$7 and include
...and the show. Tickets
...purchased in advance at
...Community Center or by
...at 510-215-4370.

...ater fun for the
...ole family
...BERKELEY — The Nevo Ed-
...Center open house is
...for noon to 2 p.m. on
...Dec. 2.
...celebrate the opening of the
...home of the Berkeley
...School of Theatre,
...to the company's two
...years.
...Learn more about this new
...school, offering classes
...programs for both youth
...and adults.
...Current offerings include the
...Touring Program for el-
...and middle-school stu-
...throughout Northern Cal-
...the Student Matinee
...for middle- and high-
...school students; the Playmaking
...for middle- and high-
...schoolers and incarcerated
...in-school residences;
...training and support and
...of educational outreach
...that encourage life-long
...for all ages. Participate
...classes, meet the faculty, and
...the building. The free event
...be at 2071 Addison St. in
...Berkeley.
...For more information call 510-
...3372.

...Harding Goes
...Hollywood
...ndraising auction
...EL CERRITO — The third an-
...Harding Goes Hollywood
...silent and live auction of
...merchandise and
...the unique items is 6:30-9 p.m.
...Saturday, Dec. 1, in the audi-
...at Harding Elementary
...7230 Fairmount Ave.
...Proceeds go to support the
...school's music, computer and sci-
...ence programs.
...Many Hollywood celebrities
...have donated autographed items
...to the live auction.
...Other items include a private
...party given by our fire-
...fighters at Station 72, a video of
...the film "A Mocking Bird" au-
...tographed and donated by Gregory
...and a hand-crafted wooden
...house donated by Marvin
...Stevens Realty.
...The tables also include lift
...tickets from Sugar Bowl, North-
...and Donner, tickets to
...the Rep., Cal Performances,
...and the S.F. Symphony, and
...much more.

...Christmas Fantasy at
...Tilden Regional Park
...The merry-go-round at Tilden
...Regional Park in Berkeley is
...decked out with lights and sea-
...sonal decorations and is open

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from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. daily
through Dec. 23 for its annual
Christmas Fantasy.

Food and drink are on sale, as
are decorations and gift items.
Rides on the merry-go-round,
which is on the National Register
of Historic Places, are \$1, or
\$10 for a ticket book of 13 rides.

The merry-go-round, on Central
Park Drive, was constructed in
North Tonaunda, N.Y., in
1910, and has been at Tilden
since 1948. Details: 510-524-6773.

Free special-needs adoption workshop

Adopt a Special Kid, also
known as AASK, will hold an
adoption workshop from 7 to 9
p.m. Dec. 4.

The free workshop, open to
singles, married couples, gay and
lesbian couples, experienced and
older parents, will be an intro-
duction to the adoption process.
It will be held at 7700 Edgewa-
ter Drive, Suite 125, in Oakland,
which can be reached by taking
the Hegenberger Road exit off
Interstate 880, near the Oakland
Coliseum and Oakland airport.

AASK, an Oakland-based
nonprofit adoption agency, pro-
vides complete adoption services,
support, education and social
events for families and their
adopted special-needs children
in 21 counties in Northern Cal-
ifornia.

An AASK representative says
more than 33,000 children in Cal-
ifornia, all from the foster-care
system, need loving homes and
families.

Reservations are recom-
mended. Call Andrea Schneider
at 510-553-1748, Ext. 12, for
more information.

KPFA radio: past, present and future

"KPFA Radio: Its Past and its
Uncertain Future" at 7 p.m. Sun-
day, Dec. 2, at the International
House Auditorium, Bancroft Way
at Piedmont Avenue.

The award-winning docu-
mentary, "KPFA On The Air," nar-
rated by Alice Walker, will be fol-
lowed by a panel discussion
about current threats to KPFA's
free speech tradition.

Speakers will include Celia
Alario, Larry Bensky, Amelia
Gonzalez-Garcia, Matthew Lasar,
Susan Stone and Walter Turner.
The cost is a \$10-20 sliding
scale donation, though no one
will be turned away for lack of
funds. All proceeds benefit Free
Speech Radio News and the four
lawsuits against the Pacifica
Foundation.

KPFA to hold annual crafts fair

The 31st annual KPFA com-
munity crafts fair will be held
from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 8
and 9 at the Concourse Exhi-
bition Center, Eighth and Brannan
streets in San Francisco.

More than 200 thoughtfully
juried craftsmakers and artists
will show their best work in a
mellow ambience, with speakers,
natural foods from many cul-
tures, world music and dance
performances.

Tickets are \$7, \$5 for seniors
or disabled, and under 17 free.
KPFA free shuttles will be
available from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30
p.m., to and from the KPFA Fair
and the Civic Center BART and
Caltrain Station at Fourth and
Townsend streets. For infor-
mation, call 510-848-6767 ext. 609
or online at www.kpfa.org.

Officer shoots, kills man threatening daughter

By Leslie Fulbright
STAFF WRITER

RICHMOND — Police fatally
shot a man Nov. 23 who was
threatening to break his young
daughter's neck and was pre-
pared to die to keep from re-
turning to jail.

The unarmed man posed
enough of a risk to the 19-month-
old girl and her twin sister who
lay nearby that a police sergeant
felt justified in firing, said Rich-
mond Police Department
spokesman Sgt. Enos Johnson.

The patrol sergeant and two
officers who responded to the do-
mestic disturbance call at the
home in the 5900 block of Or-
chard Avenue in the Richmond
Annex were placed on three days
paid administrative leave, which
is standard in officer-involved
shootings.

Each officer must decide
whether to pull the trigger at a
scene where a threat is being
made, Johnson said.

"If the officers perceive the sit-
uation as life-threatening, they
are trained to fire. It's an indi-
vidual decision. This sergeant felt
the life of the child was in im-
mediate danger, and he reacted."

A video tape made by the 41-
year-old man shows him threat-
ening his screaming daughter be-
fore being shot.

Mike Anthony Valdez was
holding his daughter "at an an-
gle where he had twisted her
head all the way back and was
saying he was going to break it,"
police said. The baby was crying
and screaming as Valdez pro-
claimed he would rather die than
go to jail.

The video also shows a partial
image of Valdez being shot by
Richmond police Sgt. Arnold
Threets and then slumping down
in a chair, said Sgt. Enos John-
son.

Apparently, Valdez set up the
camera before or during the time
he barricaded himself Friday
morning inside the studio apart-



FIREFIGHTERS AND PARAMEDICS attend to two officers down on San Pablo Avenue after they were in a traffic accident on Nov. 23 in El Cerrito. The officers were responding to the officer-involved shooting nearby in the Richmond Annex. The accident closed the block for several hours.

ment he shared with his girl-
friend and their twin daughters.

The couple got into an argu-
ment before Valdez locked him-
self in the lower-level unit with
his daughters and placed furni-
ture in front of the door.

Valdez had a long history of
domestic violence. On Thanks-
giving, he brought the babies to
the room with his girlfriend and
started hitting her in the face
with a belt, said a relative of the
woman, who asked that her
name not be used.

"He said, 'Let's see what your
daughters think about this,' and
he kept hitting her and scream-
ing," she said.

Both neighbors and family
members said that police were a
common sight at the home and
that Valdez was often physically
violent.

Valdez lived in Washington
state before moving to Richmond
about two years ago. He served
time there for domestic violence,
too, relatives said.

He was released from Contra
Costa County jail about six

months ago after serving a sen-
tence for domestic violence in
connection with a fight that left
his girlfriend with black eyes and
numerous bruises.

"He beat the hell out of her,"
the woman's relative said. "They
would always fight. It was your
typical domestic violence situa-
tion. Why she stayed, no one
knew."

"He was a such violent man,"
she continued. "I feel the police
didn't have any alternative but to
shoot him."

Police were first called at 9:49
a.m. by a relative, who was up-
stairs where several family mem-
bers live.

Police arrived at 10:12 a.m.
and forced entry into the room
where Valdez was sitting with
one daughter on his lap and the
other lying nearby.

He would not turn over the
babies to police. The fatal shot
was fired at 10:34 a.m. after ne-
gotiation attempts failed, police
said. The baby on Valdez's lap
was covered in her father's blood
before police removed her and

turned her over to her mother.

The shooting is being investi-
gated by the police department
and the Contra Costa District At-
torney's office.

Family and friends of Valdez
mourning his death Saturday
said he would never have hurt
his daughters. One friend ad-
mitted Valdez had a temper but
argued he was a loving father.

Police also continued to in-
vestigate the crash involving two
motorcycle officers who collided
while en route to the domestic
disturbance.

The officers were looking for
Orchard Avenue, a small street
that borders El Cerrito, when the
crash occurred. One officer spot-
ted the street after passing it and
was turning around when the
other officer rear-ended him go-
ing about 40 mph, police said.

Both were thrown from their
bikes. One motorcycle landed on
its side. The other continued up-
right until it ran into a black
Lexus whose driver, a Richmond
woman, had yielded to the sirens.

Hearing set for planned El Cerrito subdivision

STAFF REPORT

EL CERRITO — Plans are
afoot for a five-home develop-
ment between Rifle Range Road
and Arlington Boulevard in the
city.

Called the Dylan's Way Sub-
division, the project would cre-
ate five residential lots on a two-
acre parcel bounded by Rifle

Range Road to the east, Arling-
ton Boulevard to the west, Club
View Drive to the north and Lam-
brecht Court and homes to the
south.

The proposed new lots will
range from 10,701 to 17,643
square-feet in size and each
would be developed with one sin-
gle-family home.

Four lots would be created on
the western half of the parcel and
a new road, intersecting with The
Arlington, would be built.

The applicant is Aaron Vitale
of Vital Building & Enterprises,
which has built several homes in
the El Cerrito hills in recent years
and is in the process of rehab-
bing a corner property on San

Pablo Avenue across from El Cer-
rito Mill & Lumber that will serve
as the firm's offices along with
other uses.

The Planning Commission
will hold a public hearing on the
proposed development at 7:30
p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 5 in the
Community Center, 7007 Moerer
Lane.

Bones thought to be those of missing man

STAFF REPORT

RICHMOND — The Contra
Costa Coroner's Office tenta-
tively identified a set of old bones
found Thursday in Wildcat
Canyon Regional Park as be-
longing to a 41-year-old Rich-

mond man missing since 1999.

The man's identity was with-
held Friday pending conclusive
identification and notification of
kin. The cause of death remains
unknown pending an autopsy,
deputy coroner James Flanagan

said.

A family hiking in a remote
section of the park found the
bones about 2:15 p.m. on
Thanksgiving, East Bay Regional
Parks police Sgt. Jon King said.
Police think the bones are at

least one or two years old and,
from clothing and other articles
found with them, think they be-
longed to a man.

A team of police and fire-
fighters investigated the scene
Friday for clues.

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

UC's new standards

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA'S decision to place added emphasis on personal achievement as a requirement for admission is a welcome step. It continues the university's effort to recognize that, when evaluating a prospective student, academic performance is an important thing, but not the only thing.

The Board of Regents adopted the new policies two weeks ago. They will cover all the UC campuses but likely will have the greatest impact at the highly competitive institutions at Los Angeles and Berkeley.

The regents are asking their admissions officials to sail into uncharted waters for UC schools, but it is a necessary voyage. Historically, academic performance has been very heavily emphasized. It should be an important criterion: No body should go UC who is unprepared academically.

However, focusing almost exclusively on academics, while rewarding the academically deserving, also gives an unfair advantage to students who attend better schools, or who learn how to take tests well whether they understand the material or not, or who have teachers savvy enough to teach to admissions tests. Some of those students, superior grades notwithstanding, lack depth or breadth of experience.

What about youngsters whose grades are good but not outstanding because they come from a broken family and have to work through all the woes that entails? Or who work 30 hours a week to help the disadvantaged or their own families while the kids from financially comfortable families are able to spend every spare hour in the library, studying admissions tests? Or would-be college freshmen whose grades are a bit short of the top rung but who are strong leaders at their high schools, or who have exceptional ability in music or some other realm of experience?

These youngsters, because they have excelled in their lives already, or duked it out with hard times, should give admissions officials pause. They have shown a maturity that indicates they would succeed at the university and beyond.

Having said all that, we stress that we are not diminishing the importance of academic performance. It should remain a key factor for admissions. But being a bookworm and only a bookworm is no longer enough.

Youngsters who become well-rounded as they are growing up or who overcome adversity or who take jobs while still achieving good grades are the kind of people who should have entree to the state's university system.

They are the future leaders of the state. If they have shown character and leadership before they have reached the age of 20, there is an excellent chance that they will continue to build on what they already have accomplished.

That will serve the university, the state and society well. These kids deserve the chance to show what they can do.

Highway convenience

ONE OF THE ODDITIES of the toll-free federal interstate highway system is its prohibition of services at rest stops along the roadway. Gasoline and food services are restricted to exits except on older roads that have been incorporated into the system.

There is no good reason to maintain the ban on roadway services indefinitely. Not only would fuel and fast-food services offer a great convenience to millions of motorists, private businesses could pay for improvements to existing restrooms and picnic areas, many of which have fallen into disrepair.

Fortunately, the ban on commercial activity at interstate rest stops could come to an end soon. Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Redlands, is promoting a pilot program that would allow gas stations and fast-food restaurants to open at no more than 10 areas for no more than 10 years.

That's a good start, but why do we need a pilot program when so many other states already have convenient and successful commercial services at their rest stops?

It comes as no surprise that the National Association of Truck Stop Owners opposes commercial businesses at rest stops. The group believes that it would severely harm businesses that now operate just off highway exits.

Association President W. Dewey Clower cited a University of Maryland study showing businesses at interchanges would lose two-thirds of sales if the faced competition from such "ultra-convenient" rest areas.

That kind of loss is unlikely in much of California, where rest-stop services would be far from current truck stops.

Besides, the rest-stop gas stations and fast-food restaurants would not offer the wide range of amenities available at the usual truck stop. Also, in many roadside gas stations, prices are higher than they are at those off exits.

Moreover, it is doubtful that California motorists consider "ultra-convenient" to be a pejorative term. It is the obligation of federal and state transportation officials to serve the public interest, not the special interests of truck-stop owners.

That is why Lewis' bill, which is supported by California Assembly Speaker Robert Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys, deserves passage. It would be even better if it were a more extensive measure.

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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SHOPPERS DO THEIR DUTY

YOU WENT OUT SHOPPING
AND BOUGHT ALL OF THIS?

THE PRESIDENT TOLD ME TO
I'M ONLY BEING PATRIOTIC.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Many gave their lives

In 1999, I was approached by a group of patriotic El Cerrito residents calling themselves the El Cerrito Veterans Committee. They wanted to celebrate the many veterans who had served or had made the final sacrifice in the code of honor, duty and country.

They worked extremely hard to overcome political, governmental and citizen hurdles in their efforts to succeed in completing their dream. After many months of selfless dedication, that dream came true and the El Cerrito Veterans Memorial was dedicated on Nov. 11, 1999 at the site of the El Cerrito City Hall.

As a Vietnam veteran, as well as the artist who was selected to design and install the project, I am forever grateful to these residents who never forgot what Veterans Day stands for. They wanted to ensure that future generations would never forget the sacrifices of those who serve their country with honor.

It is tragic that Sept. 11 had to happen to remind all of us of what a handful of dedicated residents already understood. Liberty has a price and all the young people who serve their country, whether in a good war or a politically incorrect war, need to be remembered on Veterans Day.

I ask that all El Cerrito residents pay tribute to the El Cerrito Veterans Committee for its tireless efforts to create a memorial to those who served.

Please come by the site and reflect on those who gave honor, duty and country priority in their young lives.

Steven J. Temple
Vallejo

Temple teaches art at El Cerrito High School.

A cynical move

I was shocked to learn the House is taking advantage of these troubled and confusing times, when few of us are paying attention, to give gigantic tax rebates to our country's largest corporations.

It has voted to repeal the alternative minimum tax, which requires companies to pay at least some tax, no matter how many loopholes they can find. This repeal allows many companies to pay no income tax for the foreseeable future and beyond. The loss in revenue will amount to \$12 billion next year alone.

Worse yet, the repeal is retroactive, so companies will get rebates of all the alternative minimum tax they've paid for the last 15 years! This translates into \$1.4 billion for IBM, \$833 million for General Motors, \$671 million for General Electric, \$254 million for Dick Cheney's Enron buddies, and the list goes on.

Also, by extending an existing loophole, the House voted to allow corporations to continue to stash profits overseas as a tax shelter. This will actually send money out of the U.S. economy. And they call this a "stimulus?"

I fail to see how such measures, and the inevitable return to deficit spending they will usher in, will boost our economy. Giving billions to the richest Americans and the most profitable corporations, while telling the rest of us that things like education and health care have to take a back seat now is a cynical, unconscionable move during this time of crisis and will mean hard economic times for the vast majority of us.

Pamela Gilbert-Snyder
El Cerrito

Priority check

Must it always, or almost always, be about money?

I refer to the lobbying by university officials who are protesting Sen. Dianne Feinstein's proposal for a six-month moratorium on student visas.

Which is of primary importance, a boost to the economy via the moneys spent by these foreign students or a boost to the security of our country and its legal citizens?

A six-month moratorium to help make the land that we love more safe is but a short-lived monetary deprivation. To abandon Feinstein's proposal and chance the loss of lives through another tragic act of terrorism is a permanent deprivation and, most assuredly, would say that money is more important, to some, than the love of our fellow-man.

Diane Severson
Kensington

Move for peace!

Secretary Colin Powell is the latest Bush Administration official to continue with the shameful pandering to the Palestinian cause.

Why do we even bother? The Palestinians have demonstrated (literally in the streets) in support of the actions of terrorists who have no regard for human life, much less the notion of compromise, peace and moving on. These are the attributes we need to seek and nurture in the Middle East and the shameful diplomatic cookies tossed at the Palestinians during this crucial period further erode our standing in the world view.

Israel is waiting to make peace with some Palestinian counterpart. Let us all hope these leaders will quit this phony uprising and get down to the business of getting on with it.

Joshua Polston
Berkeley

Intolerant Berkeley

I found myself laughing at Michele Fry's Nov. 11 column, "We can't repress opposing views," even though it was not intended to be funny.

She wrote: "When an unpopular opinion is expressed, not only is the opinion ripped, but the person sharing the view-

point is shredded as well. We, who are supposed to embrace individuality, instead demand groupthink and cheerleader mentality."

What's funny? Fry was criticizing critics of Berkeley, when I thought she was describing Berkeley!

Many Berkeley residents and students at the university are the most intolerant people, regarding freedom of speech, whom I know. I can't count the number of convocations at Cal at which as a guest, invited speaker was shouted down by some group not agreeing with what was being said, or else felt that whatever was bothering them was more important than the words of anyone representing "the establishment."

Some speakers, e.g., David Horowitz, aren't allowed to speak at all. And because of this, the campus newspaper should follow something in print that isn't politically correct — that invites hating papers stolen and its offices stormed by irate protesters.

Fry bemoans the "T-split-on-you attitude" she sees toward Berkeley, but Berkeley may well have invented it.

Sharon R. Nix
El Sobrante

Both cities win

A recent photo caught me as a tabrant at Richmond Mayor Irma Anderson's election-night victory party. People asked why I was not at an El Cerrito event. Two reasons.

First, the El Cerrito election was predictable. It is almost impossible to unseat an incumbent and the well-run LaToya Moore campaign had been going on since her narrow loss in 1999. The last-minute entry of Tony Wise precluded him from mounting the campaign necessary to overcome the odds against him. His remarkably strong showing suggests we will be hearing from him again.

Second, I was concerned about developing San Pablo Avenue without Richmond's involvement. After all, they own a lot of San Pablo Avenue's west side. Of all the Richmond candidates, Irma Anderson was the most enthusiastic about working with us in this regard.

While I do not believe elected officials in one city should formally endorse candidates in an adjoining city, it did not seem inappropriate to be involved as a citizen in the behind-the-scenes effort. Accordingly, I worked as a fund raiser and precinct captain.

With El Cerrito's re-activated Redevelopment Agency now positioned to work with Richmond's, Anderson's election is a win for both cities.

Mayor Larry Damon
El Cerrito

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Now's not the time to give up on the Red Cross and its works



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

the Spirit of Sept. 11...
...the Red Cross of Northern California...
...the blood supply to be back at...

being cancelled is the revelation that the national Red Cross diverted some of the money that had been donated to help the victims of Sept. 11. The official explanation for this was that the Red Cross needs money to prepare for the next terrorist attack, as well as the last one. In the abstract, this might make sense.

But in real life, that wasn't what people thought they were giving the money for. They thought it was earmarked for the victims, period. The Red Cross's own TV commercials promised as much.

But — and I can't emphasize this enough — none of this was the Northern California Red Cross's fault. It had nothing to do with either collecting the money or distributing it. If you're mad at the national, don't take it out on the local.

If it makes you feel better, the national organization is already paying a heavy price. Its CEO, Dr. Bernardine Healey, has been fired. And the new CEO has reversed her policy and announced that all the money will go to the victims, after all.

But the damage has been done, not least to the Red Cross's own image. And now

When the next disaster strikes — whether it's natural or man-made — the Red Cross be among the first there

the rumormongers are getting into the act, especially on the Internet. There are wild claims going around that the Red Cross used Sept. 11 money to pay its executives' salaries or buy them expensive perks. All are absolutely untrue.

Ordinarily, I'd suggest filing them under "Urban Legends," right next to the poodle in the microwave and the alligators in the sewers of New York. But these are especially dangerous urban legends, because they hurt the ability of an asset that we absolutely need in these terrible times — the Red Cross — to do its job. People who spread these rumors are no better than people who think it's funny to send someone a letter dusted with talcum powder as a joke.

Why is it suddenly popular to dump on the Red Cross? My theory is displaced anger. Let's face it: We all went through an experience that would fill anyone with enough rage to last 10 lifetimes. But there's no place to vent it. You can shake your fist at Osama bin Laden's picture on TV only so many times.

Add to this the fact that our collective adrenaline rush, which helped get us through these last few months, is finally running out. Many people are telling me they've been feeling really tired lately. They also say they're feeling crabby.

It's only human to feel on the nearest available scapegoat, but the Red Cross of Northern California is the wrong scapegoat.

These are the same people who were among the first on the scene when the Loma Prieta earthquake struck in 1989. And they were among the first on the scene when the Oakland hills firestorm struck two years later. When the next disaster strikes — whether it's natural or man-made — they'll be among the first there, too. Does it make any sense to cripple them now, when we're going to need them more than ever?

I saw something similar happen 10 years ago, after the Oakland hills firestorm. A lot of people vented on the firemen for not saving their homes, even though there was absolutely nothing the firemen

could have done. Many Berkeley and Oakland firefighters still remember the insults, even today. (And they find the praise being heaped on them now, in the wake of Sept. 11, more than a little ironic.)

So if you've canceled your blood donation appointment, please call them back and cancel. If you haven't made a donation appointment yet, now would be a great time. (Blood has a short shelf life, and all the blood donated after Sept. 11 has been used.)

Just give them a call at 1-800-GIVE LIFE, and they'll hold your hand all the way, from the parking space they'll reserve for you when you arrive to the cookies and fruit juice they'll ply you with when it's over.

Would you like to help your country in her moment of need? One of best things you could do is ensure that our blood reserves are enough to meet the next emergency. It could be the nicest present you give anyone this Christmas.

Who knows? The next person who needs blood might be you. Or your child.

Phone Martin Snapp at 510-273-9039 or email him at catman@california.com.



PHOTO BY MARGARET WILLIAMS PHOTOGRAPHY

Students performing in Berkeley Ballet Theater's annual Nutcracker include (back row left to right) Natalie Warner, Caitlin Kakigi of Kensington, Chloe Smith of Albany, Rosie and Annie Goodman of Richmond, (middle row) Eliza Baskin and Zoe Statman-Weil of Albany, and Erin Boyd of Richmond (seated).

Friday, Dec. 7; at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8; at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9; at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14; at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 16.

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Brothers and sisters, it is now the season of the Lord's coming, and we must use the time to prepare ourselves by some spiritual devotion... We must strive to enter the house of our hearts, open the windows, and notice what is seemly and unseemly in that house. We must brush away the cobwebs, sweep the floors, clear out the dust and dirt, strew the clean floors with freshly gathered rushes, fragrant herbs, and sweet-smelling flowers.

--Hugh of St. Victor, German-born monk and writer, 1096-1141

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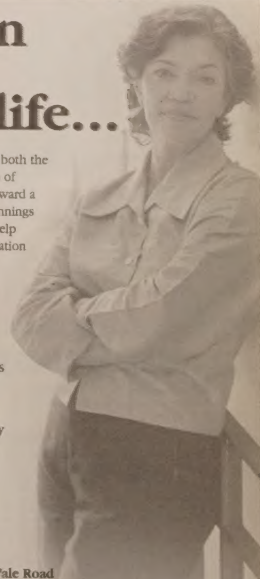
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Berkeley Ballet Theater presents annual 'Nutcracker' performance

Berkeley Ballet Theater is presenting its annual student production of "The Nutcracker" beginning Friday Dec. 7. The production is choreographed by Sally Streets and performed by students of the Berkeley Ballet Theater School to the time score by Peter Tchaikovsky. Appearing courtesy of Diablo ODC San Francisco, and Francisco Opera Ballet are principal dancers David Bier, Christopher Dolder, Brian Fisher, Gordon Freeman, Michael March, Richard Marsden, and Y. Teo.

Berkeley students performing in Berkeley Ballet Theater's annual Nutcracker include Laura Neal, Kristina Kirshner, Robyn Lee, Pali Jen, Joanna Pozdnyak and Sonja Dale and Arissa Chan and Rubia Rodriguez.

All performances are at the El Morgan Center for the Arts, 1400 College Ave., Berkeley. Tickets are \$16 and can be purchased at the door or by call 842-4889. Performances are at 7 p.m. on

Gains at Albany Y

The Albany YMCA, 921 Kains Ave., is holding its 10th annual Garage Sale on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Albany YMCA. All proceeds from the event will be used to provide financial assistance for families, youth and seniors so they can participate in YMCA programs.

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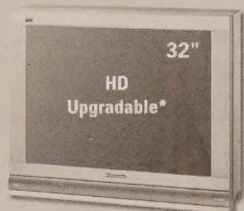
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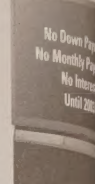
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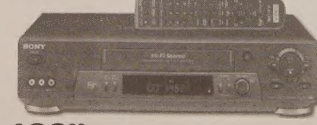
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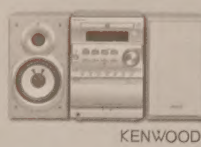
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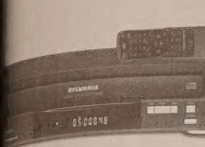
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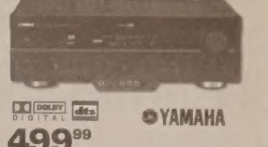
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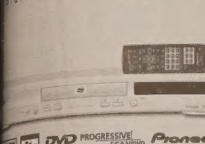
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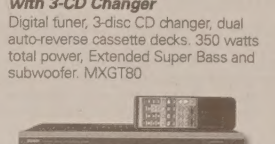
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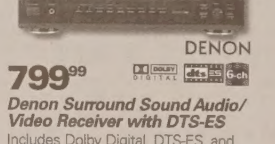


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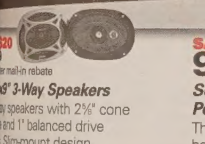
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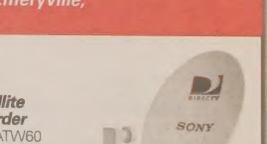
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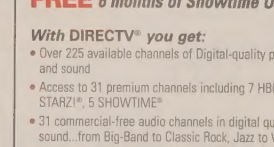
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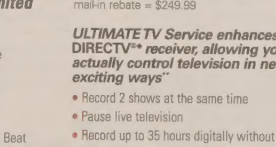
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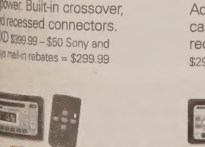
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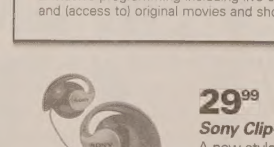
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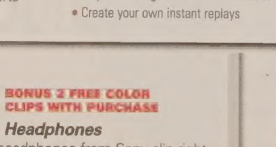
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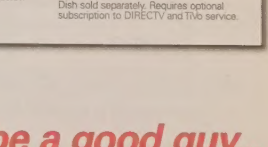
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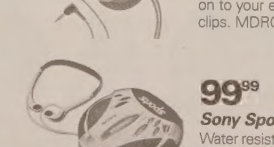
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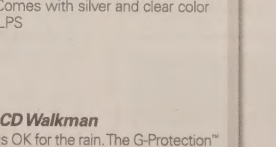
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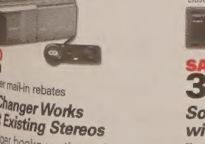
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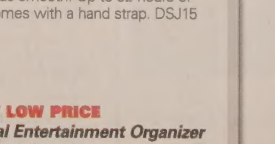
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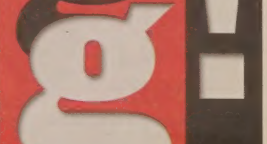
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Features high-resolution color screen, Jog Dial™
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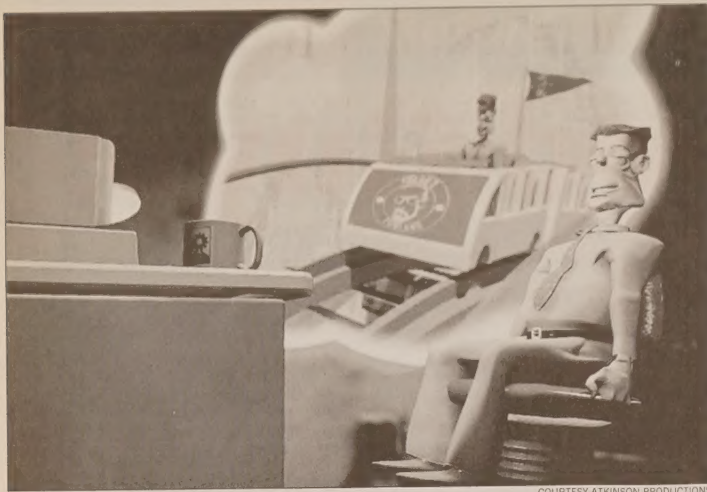
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In the animated short 'The Daydreamer', Roger begins to let his mind wander and dreams of going to the amusement park.

El Cerrito animator featured at Berkeley Film & Video Fest

Animated short 'The Daydreamer' wins Grand Festival Award

EL CERRITO — The most desperate laid-off dot-commer wouldn't want Roger's job — or Roger's boss. Both are featured in Bay Area filmmaker John Atkinson's "The Daydreamer", an animated short film that has won the Grand Festival Award for Animation from the 2001 Berkeley Video & Film Festival. The comical story of an office worker doing battle with some highly assertive fantasies, "The Daydreamer" will be screened at 9 p.m. Saturday at the Fine Arts Cinema in Berkeley.

Previously, "The Daydreamer" won the Crested Butte Reel Fest Silver Award for Best Animated Film and was screened at Siggraph 2001, the leading West Coast animation trade conference. It will also be shown this

season on "Dash's House of Animation" on San Francisco's technology-focused cable network, TechTV. The film features an innovative score by Texas composer John Jordan.

Atkinson on Wednesday talked about the life of an independent animator to Albany High seniors as part of the school's Career Day.

"Making independent films is certainly not for everyone. One must love the process of filmmaking and relish the journey," he said. "Cutbacks in recent years to school arts programs have hit young animators hard — student filmmakers must work to develop their artistic and storytelling gifts, as well as learning computer skills."

The eighth Berkeley Video & Film Festival includes an international selection of documentaries, feature films, commercials, and animated and live-action shorts — this year including sev-

eral films featured at Telluride's IndieFest. Taking place at the Fine Arts Cinema at 2451 Shattuck Ave. in Berkeley, festival screenings start at 2 p.m. on Dec. 1. Atkinson will also be interviewed by KALX-FM radio before the screening.

Atkinson's previous animated short film, "Aspire," won a number of awards and has been screened nationally and internationally. He also received First Prize for 3D Animation in the Beyond the Canvas Competition for his first animated short, "Spaceport Mars."

In addition, he works for post-production houses around the Bay Area, creating video effects and animations for art-house documentaries such as "Surfing for Life" and "Crickets Outta Compton." TV documentaries for the History Channel and the Travel Channel, and national TV series including "America's Most Haunted" and "Weird Places."

New Albany planner gets off to a fast start

Albany has a new planning and building manager in the person of Dave Dowsell. He took over the job this month after Jeri Ram, who held the position for two years, moved on to Dublin.

I was sorry to see Jeri go, not only because she did a good job, but because I had only recently discovered that she was also a history buff. Persons so afflicted love to swap little-known facts or casually drop a date just to see if it resonates. Aside from being made aware of how little you know, this can add to your store of knowledge while you wait for a call from some big TV quiz show.

Dowsell isn't a history buff, but he knows a lot about the city planning business.

"Dave hit the ground running," said personnel analyst Aaron Walker. When I interviewed Dowsell, he was studying up on the San Pablo Avenue Vision Plan and other development plans for the city.

"I am here to make sure the planning and building function of the city operate within the vision plan and the general plan," he told me. Dowsell will be working under the direction of Community Development Director Ann Chaney and City Administrator Beth Polard.

"We are lucky to have gotten somebody with such good experience and who will work well with the citizens of Albany," Chaney said of the latest member of the City Hall family.

Dowsell, 49, earned his bachelor's degree in urban planning from UC-Davis. After graduation, he worked in San Pablo for two years, Vallejo for eight years, Corte Madera for 18 months, and Pinole for the past 14 and a half years.

"I was mostly a technical planner in Pinole," Dowsell said. "I came here for new challenges and the opportunity to deal with new issues." He also likes the idea of acquiring more "managerial exposure" here, where he will be supervising four people rather than one as he did in Pinole.

Dowsell believes that Pinole, population 19,100, and Albany, population 17,300, face some similar problems. "Both are essentially built out," he said. This means both cities are planning for greater density in the business areas. Dowsell sees the problem as one of finding ways to "preserve the character of the city and still progress."

When Dowsell was in Pinole, the city approved its first three-story building downtown and only the second in the city limits. "Two stories seems acceptable, but some oppose three stories as they are more of an urban structure and there is a loss of that small-town feel," he said.

In Albany that "small-town feel" is called "ambiance." Preserving it has become a politi-



DAVE DOWSWELL is Albany's new planning and building manager.

cal mantra even for those who work constantly to change the things that have created it.

Dowsell has lived in Vallejo for 21 years. This 20-mile commute is not fun, but he has no immediate plans for moving closer to Albany. His wife, Joan, works in Concord and gets her share of heavy traffic. The couple have a 12-year old son, Drew, and a 10-year old daughter, Caitlin.

And now for the question you have been wanting to ask about his name: Does it have something to do with the ancient art of dowsing, the use of a divining rod to find underground water? As Dowsell is of English descent, and many English names stem from occupations like baker, sawyer, carter, etc., it is possible his does, too.

While vacationing in England, he checked out distant Dowsells but could find no evidence any had been finders of water. However, he does know that, excluding his family, there are only five others with his surname out of 32 million Californians.

For recreation Dowsell plays golf and does a little snow skiing. He has also been a collector of various things starting with metal toys and trains and continuing through baseball cards, coins, and stamps. He admits to sometimes getting a "little obsessive" about collecting, but what fun would it be otherwise?

I think Dave Dowsell, who is both serious and affable, is the right man at the right time for an Albany struggling to

Wood smoke taints neighborhoods

Fall is just underway in the Bay Area and already we've experienced some cold weather, the kind of temperatures that cause us to retreat to our easy chairs, and fireplaces for comfort. But some fires offer less comfort than others: in ways many of us don't realize.

County supervisor Gayle Uilkema reports that one traditional wood fire emits almost a half-pound of particulate pollution into a neighborhood in an evening. That's why the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is concerned with woodsmoke from fireplaces and woodstoves. Particulate pollution has serious health consequences. The very smallest particles can penetrate deep into the air sacs of the lung and become trapped for years, contributing to lung disease.

And these pollutants don't

only reach your neighbors outside. Woodsmoke also pollutes your own home. Particulates can cause or aggravate coughing, shortness of breath, eye irritation, asthma, bronchitis and emphysema. It's particularly unhealthy for children and those who already suffer from respiratory problems.

On cold winter evenings with little wind, wood smoke and other pollutants get trapped in a shallow layer of cold air near the surface. The smoke can stay trapped in neighborhoods for days, increasing the potential for exposure to harmful pollutants.

As awareness over the health risks of woodsmoke have increased, Contra Costa County has passed an ordinance to stop the proliferation of wood smoke from new fireplaces.

In these times of rising energy

prices, using a traditional fireplace may seem like a terrific cost-saving idea. But the truth is, fireplaces are not an efficient source of heat, wood is expensive, and the health and environmental impacts of burning wood are great. This year, the Air District is asking residents to avoid burning wood. If you must burn, follow these basic guidelines:

Light it right! Only burn dry seasoned wood.

Never burn treated wood or garbage. These materials release harmful toxins into the air.

Never use wrapping paper as a starter for your fire.

For a free woodburning handbook call 800-HELP-AIR or log onto www.sparetheair.org.

The Journal's Web site has news, features, letters, obituaries and sports stories at

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Online stories are published on Friday.

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Albany woman's inventive 'eco-quilts' prove art is where you find it

By Mary Reiley
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Remi Rubel of calls herself "one of those people who are annoying to walk down the street with. If I see something laying there, I have to stop and pick it up."

It's not just for being tidy that she gathers items, but to add special touches to her art. She uses many of her "found" items in her eco-quilts, pieces of diverse materials and textures she forms into a pattern, and bottle-cap art.

A native of Glencoe, a suburb of Chicago, Rubel was active in performing arts when she came to the Bay Area in 1984, but had been involved in crafts from a very early age.

Her grandparents owned a craft business in New York City, selling recycled materials in kits so people could make crafts from things like broken tiles, buttons, stones or single earrings.

"It's in my blood to re-use materials," she said. "I've been doing it practically since I was born."

Before moving to the East Bay in 1995, Rubel was the artist in residence at San Francisco's Sanitary Fill Co., a subsidiary of Norcal Waste Systems Inc. In that capacity, she organized and directed several collaborative works, including a bottle cap piece done with urban youths in the San Francisco Conservation Corps. It remains on display at the entrance of the Sanitary Fill Company. She also worked with formerly homeless people living in a residential hotel in San Francisco's Tenderloin district to produce one quilt.

Rubel shared her enthusiasm for recycled art in two workshops this month at the Richmond Art Center.

"These are one-of-a-kind, unique workshops," said Rachel Osajima, exhibitions director at the center.

Rubel was invited to present the workshops after her works were chosen to be part of the Bay Area Selections exhibit at the center this past summer.

Osajima praises the "familiar yet unfamiliar quality" of Rubel's bottle cap art works.

"They seem so colorful, but at the same time, they seem regular," Osajima said. "They invite touching."



REMI RUBEL shows some of the varieties of inserts she has stuffed in bottle caps. They will be used to complete a wedding dress for a display opening in April at the Francisco Museum of Folk Art.

I must agree because, while visiting Rubel's home studio on Tuesday, it was impossible for me to keep my hands off two of her dresses and wall hangings made of bottle caps. Not only are they fun to touch, but they make a delightful clicking noise as they shiver from being handled.

"I make them so you can touch them from both sides," Rubel said. "It's important to me that they be textural and sensual."

It was fascinating to see brand names on the backs of the caps and recognize items such as feathers, foil, currency and pho-

tos that had been crimped into the front.

As Osajima said, seeing Rubel's pieces "gives you the sense you can make art out of anything."

Workshop participants may begin to see lots of things within their day-to-day environment as potential materials, Osajima said.

"It opens the possibility to look around in and see other things one can transform into art," she added.

Rubel has been a collector of found items for many years, including something she calls "road kill metal." Those are things on

the side of the road or in the street that have been flattened or twisted by vehicles running over them.

"I have an innate sense of seeing beauty in stuff other people consider garbage and pass by," she said. "I've had it since I was a kid."

She likes to combine unlike materials and see what happens.

"There are probably some materials that are harder than oth-

ers to work with, but any can be transformed into something of value," she said.

Rubel has been making wearable pieces, including jewelry and clothing, with the metallic discs since 1985. The eco-quilting is a more recent expansion of the concept of transformation, she said.

She made her first bottle-cap frock in 1988, and has worn her unique dresses, vests and skirts

for special occasions. New Year's Eve and the

Rubel gets her caps from restaurants and Bay Depot for Creative non-profit group in Oakland cycling rather than items appeals to her.

"There's so much said. 'We're throwing that is completely need to change-sea was source, not as garbage

Local artists in Celebration of Craftswomen

SAN FRANCISCO — El Cerrito enamelist Judy Stone, Richmond photographer Jenni Norton, and several Berkeley artists, including painter Juana Alicia, jewelry designer Irene Storch, ceramicist Daina Heisters, sculptor Sharon Wheat, clothing designer Linda Letts, and egg shell artist Brooke Patterson will be featured in Celebration of Craftswomen from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and Dec. 1 and 2.

The 23rd annual event showcases innovative work by more than 300 women artists.

The event is in the Festival Pavilion at Fort Mason Center, at Buchanan Street and Marina Boulevard. It will offer live music, dance, gourmet food and drink, a silent auction and a benefit raffle.

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and free for children under 12. A two-day pass is \$10. Free parking, with continual free shuttle service, is available at Marina Middle School. Call 415-383-3470 for more information.

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West County schools activist Barbara Alexander dies at age 64

Kara Shire
Barbara Alexander, a lifelong advocate for the poor and a devoted mother, died Tuesday after a heart attack. She was 64. She was born in Beaumont, Texas, and moved to the San Francisco area where her father owned a longshoreman. She was 19 when Billy Alexander caught her eye after a chance meeting. The two were married 44 years. She was a fun-loving person who loved to travel. "She was just about says it all," said Billy Alexander. She first got involved in education in 1963 when she was the youngest daughter. Gaye, her oldest daughter, is now an undergraduate at Coronado Elementary School. She has been a teacher for 25 years. Her passion was education in local education. She was the PTA, then the advisory council. Before she died, she was involved in the district advisory committee, the National Coalition for the Parents and the California Association for Compensatory Education. In the 1970s, the Alexanders

successfully sued the school district and state over their handling of Title I funds. "Her thing was people and most of all children, she loved children," said friend Ruby Carter, who first met the Alexanders while working on the district advisory committee. Always looking for more ways to help her community, Barbara Alexander started several programs to help poor children. There was "Dreams for Children," a program that raised money to take kids on toy-store shopping sprees. She also started a "Day of Sharing" at Nystrom Elementary School, a weekend tutorial program at the Martin Luther King Center and a summer school program, called Summer of Hope. Later, she and Billy Alexander started the West Contra Costa "Back to School Festival," an event that still marks the start of the new school year and allows kids to get free school supplies. "We're poor," said Billy Alexander, "but she was passionately concerned about poor people. I guess you could call her a Robin Hood." Aside from her advocacy, Alexander was a fantastic baker, specializing in German chocolate

cakes. In lean financial years, Billy Alexander said his wife would bake cakes around Christmas time to supplement the family income. Most of her time, friends and family said, was spent working to better conditions for children. "Barbara fought for a cause not just regarding her children, she fought for everyone's kids, and that's what I think is the most unique thing about Barbara," said Linda Adams, principal at Wilson Elementary School and a family friend. "I know that she really loved children." Barbara Alexander is survived by her husband, Billy; daughters Gaye Hudson, Patricia Clark and Dayn Alexander; sons Rick, Nicolas, Mark, Timothy and Joel; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Viewing has been scheduled for 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday at Rose Manor Funeral Service, 3331 Macdonald Ave., with a quiet hour beginning at 5 p.m. Funeral services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, 831 S. 43rd, Richmond. Reach Kara Shire at 510-262-2798 or e-mail kshire@acc-times.com

Egyptian author talks politics at UC

■ The war in Afghanistan is an attempt to exploit oil, Nawal el Saadawi told an audience of 200

By Tom Lochner
STAFF WRITER
BERKELEY — The so-called war on terrorism is but a side chapter and Afghans, especially women, mere pawns in a globalization scheme orchestrated by capitalists, Egyptian author and human rights activist Nawal el Saadawi told a 200-strong audience at UC Berkeley last week-end. "Is this war going to liberate the women of Afghanistan? Is the Northern Alliance better than the Taliban?" el Saadawi asked during a presentation on religion, women and globalization in which she blasted the use of women's rights to justify the war in Afghanistan. Born in 1932, el Saadawi is author of more than 30 essays, plays and novels, among them "The Hidden Fear of Eve," "Women at Point Zero," and "The Fall of the Imam." A physician who treated girls

in rural areas who had been genitally mutilated, el Saadawi was fired as Egypt's director of public health in the 1970s after her views angered Egyptian political and religious authorities, she said. El Saadawi has since headed several women's rights groups and spent time in jail in the 1980s. She later moved to the United States, where she taught at several universities. She has since returned to Cairo and is on the death list of several terrorist organizations, including Osama bin Laden's, she said. Religious rhetoric by bin Laden and President Bush notwithstanding, the war in Afghanistan is really "a war to exploit the oil in the Caspian area," el Saadawi said. Her views were delivered to a mostly like-minded audience. Peter Bright of Palo Alto and Shireen Vickford of Menlo Park agreed with el Saadawi that the war in Afghanistan is being fought to secure a pipeline route for American oil companies. Unocal and other oil companies announced plans in 1998 to move natural gas from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India, once peace comes to Afghanistan. The attack on the World Trade Center gave the U.S. government and the oil industry "a wonderful excuse" to start a war to secure the route, Vickford said. El Saadawi blasted religious fundamentalism, be it Islamic, Christian or Jewish. She denounced Israel as a "Jewish fundamentalist state — built on terrorism." She criticized the use of religion for political ends throughout the ages. "Even the holy books, they are political books," she said, citing the Torah, the New Testament and the Quran. More recently, "the language of bin Laden, Bush, (British Prime Minister Tony) Blair and the pope are alike." "The pope (John Paul II) visited Uzbekistan before the (American) soldiers came," she said. "See the connection between the pope, the oil and the war?" The answer to "globalization from above," exemplified by the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization, is "globalization from below," via worldwide grass-roots organizing, el Saadawi said.

grocery
PAGE 1
Shire and other shoppers often shop the two neighboring grocery stores — the Plaza Albertson's on San Francisco Avenue and the Safeway at Portola Drive to the west. Here a lot. Of course, I know the Safeway too, but I'm mostly a fan of Albertson's. I met El Cerrito resident Klaus, who is in his 70s. He likes those big stores — too much walking, at least for older citizens." She said she will probably stay with the Safeway. "The new Albertson's is closer and more convenient," Albertson's representatives said. The new store will serve the community better with expanded food, new departments and employment. "We're concerned about Albertson's, but we're working with the property owners to try and make sure a new tenant goes in there," Keimach said. "It's a concern in the short run. In the longer run it means there will be a better use for the property." City-funded assistance such

as the storefront improvement program will help to spruce up the overall look of the downtown center, Keimach said. The owner of the downtown site, Elliot Megdal and Associates in Los Angeles, has contacted other grocery chains such as Ralph's and Food For Less, but not much came of it according to Keimach. The grand opening of the Albertson's store at 1000 El Cerrito Plaza will be at 3:30 p.m., Tuesday. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony, remarks from public officials and in-store demonstrations. Albertson's will also present several grants to local non-profit organizations at the ceremony. "We're poor," said Billy Alexander, "but she was passionately concerned about poor people. I guess you could call her a Robin Hood." Aside from her advocacy, Alexander was a fantastic baker, specializing in German chocolate

offs of existing employees, Levenfeld said. "We were able to transfer employees from the other stores into our new store or other area stores, she said. As for the old Albertson's site, the Plaza store is owned by Plaza co-owner Regency Centers and the downtown site is owned by a Los Angeles investment company. "Usually what Albertson's does when we leave a site is we work with the city to bring in a tenant that is most compatible with the community," Levenfeld said. "Each community wants something different." Jill Keimach, El Cerrito's community development director, said the city, through economic development and its Redevelopment Agency, is doing what it can to get a replacement business for the downtown store and to improve overall the downtown shopping center. "We are concerned about Albertson's, but we're working with the property owners to try and make sure a new tenant goes in there," Keimach said. "It's a concern in the short run. In the longer run it means there will be a better use for the property." City-funded assistance such

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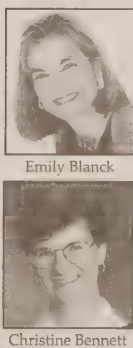
FROM PAGE 1
environment and the economy," Brown said the new state public school accountability program is important, but that curriculum is not linked to the standardized tests. Hancock said a primary concern with the accountability model is that the program "puts in accountability" without the needed support to teachers and schools. The candidates said the school curriculum needs to correlate to the standardized tests and that increasing teacher salaries is key. "We don't pay teachers enough to teach the children," Ramsey said and called the school accountability model a

"gimmick." On the question of standardized testing itself, Ramsey said it should be used as a benchmark to ascertain where the student academically is at the time, but not as a barometer of a school's performance. Hancock said such testing should be used to show where teaching needs to improve, but not to have high-stakes testing to determine whether a student will advance in grade level or graduate high school. "Testing can be useful to tell you how the adults are doing and how the school is doing," she said. Parents and taxpayers need to know how a school is doing and that testing can be one method to do so Brown said. He

said standard testing is not a "true determinant" of what students have learned, but one aspect of it. The three candidates strongly opposed school vouchers. "We have to do more for kids," and to put resources into all schools, Brown said. Not all the questions had to do with public education. "Civil rights, civil liberties and celebration of diversity are what makes this country unique in many ways on the face of the Earth," Hancock said in response to a question about the president's plan to try terrorists using military tribunals. "They are our national security and certainly our personal security in the very deepest sense of the word."

NETWORKING

East Bay Women in Business Roundtable Breakfast
In Partnership with Women in Technology International (WITI)



This year's final breakfast of the East Bay Women in Business Roundtable (EBWIBR) is also the Annual Meeting, and part of the morning will be dedicated to election of the new Steering Committee members

If the December breakfast is at least the third EBWIBR breakfast you have attended in 2001, you will be invited and encouraged to participate in the spirited election.

The remainder of the event will be co-facilitated by Emily Blanck, owner of At Work Communications, and by Christine Bennett, co-founder and principal with Work Vantage, Inc. Both will bring their unique talents and sense of fun to our all-networking extravaganza. Bring your business cards and be prepared to have a good time.



Friday, December 7, 2001
7:15-7:30 am - Breakfast
7:30-9:00 am - Meeting

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Help for the homeless comes with grants

RAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

The Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department reports it has received \$12 million in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grants for programs to help the homeless.

The grants will help to keep 26 county programs that help homeless people in Alameda County find permanent and transitional housing.

The money will also help launch a new program, the Russell Street Residence of the Berkeley Emergency Food and Housing Project, which will create 18 new housing units for

mentally disabled residents.

The amount of this year's grants is \$200,000 more than HUD gave the county last year. Alameda County is second only to Los Angeles County in the amount of grant dollars received.

Grants include a total of \$2.1 million for Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency, a community group that will use the money to operate five programs to help house people with mental disabilities, AIDS and drug problems.

The group Jobs for the Homeless Consortium received more than \$2.5 million that will allow it to provide intensive job training

and employment services to more than 1,000 homeless people.

Commenting on the grant announcement, Alameda County Supervisor Scott Hagerty said: "This award ... reminds us all that in this time of national crisis, we must not forget to continue to support programs that serve those in need in our communities."

Also, the Jobs for Homeless Consortium's Homeless One-Stop Welfare-to-Work Employment Support System in Berkeley will receive an \$1 million renewal of its HUD grant to help provide employment services.

HOLIDAY 2001 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Volunteer Center of Alameda County (419-3970 or www.volunteeronline.org) asks interested residents to share their time and other resources with the following groups:

■ **AASK, or Adopt a Special Kid**, brings children from the welfare system into loving and permanent homes and recruits families. All services are free. Contact Andrea Schneider at 553-1748 ext. 12. AASK needs gifts and new toys, art supplies, games and outdoor toys.

■ **Alameda County Community Food Bank** distributes 12 million pounds of food per year to a network of 300 soup kitchens, shelters and food pantries in Alameda County through the West Oakland Army Base. Contact Mary Schoen at 834-3663. The food bank needs non-perishable items (canned and prepared foods), as well as gifts or toys for children.

■ **BACS Adult Day Care Services** provides services for older adults with chronic health problems including Alzheimer's and provides support for their families (5714 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland). Contact Helen Wachs at 601-1074. Toiletries for men and women, including hand cream and lotion, are needed.

■ **Berkeley Youth Alternatives** provides services for at-risk children and focuses on channeling them into positive directions through pre-K and after-school programs, counseling, youth employment and mentoring (1255 Allston Way in Berkeley). Contact Deborah Espinoza at 647-0712. Toys for children, ages 6-14, are needed.

■ **Better Way Inc.** offers adoption services, foster care and therapy services for children (3200 Adeline St., Berkeley). Contact Kathy Sanonetti at 601-0203, ext. 116. Chocolate gold coins in small bags, gifts, toys and books for children ages 4-12, CDs and CD players, T-shirts, bath products, make up and holiday wrapping paper are needed.

■ **Center for AIDS Services** for persons with HIV/AIDS, provides hot meals, transportation to and from medical-service appointments, case management and related assistance (5720 Shattuck Ave., Oakland). Contact Sarah Hemmer at 655-3435.

Hams, sweet potatoes, vegetables, frozen, pumpkin pies, boxed stuffing, cans of broth, cranberry sauce, bake-and-serve rolls, gifts and toys, towels, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, scarves, gloves and socks are needed.

■ **Center for Education of Infant Deaf** provides early intervention and parent education for babies and preschool deaf children and their families (1810 Hopkins St., Berkeley). Contact Jill Ellis at 527-5544. Non-perishable food, gifts and toys for infants and young children are needed.

■ **Child Unique Montessori School** serves children from 24 months of age through 1st grade (2220 Encinal Ave., Alameda). Contact the school director at 521-9227. Canned food, turkey coupons, canned or boxed drinks, safe toys for infants and young children, gift certificates, money orders and other holiday gifts for low-income families are needed.

■ **Destiny Arts Center** is an arts-education and violence-prevention community center serving youth ages 3-20 (5688 San Pablo Ave., Oakland). Contact Jovida Ross at 597-1619. Baked goods for winter celebrations, gifts and toys are needed.

■ **East Bay Center for the Blind**, a self-run social and recreational agency for the blind and visually impaired (2928 Adeline St., Berkeley). Contact Elizabeth Deeff at 843-6935. Candy and small gifts for holiday events are needed.

■ **East Bay Community Law Center** provides free legal services for low-income residents related to eviction prevention and HIV/AIDS (3130 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). Contact Brad Yatabe 548-4040. Packaged, canned, non-perishable foods and beverages, gifts and toys for children and gift certificates for stores or restaurants are needed.

■ **Leaders in Future Environments** mentors teens who have been impacted by the incarceration of a family member (300 4th St., Oakland). Food for a holiday meal to be shared on Saturday, Dec. 8, as well as gifts and toys for teens are needed.

■ **Lifelong Medical Care**, community medical clinic serv-

ing the homeless and street people, needs gifts and toys for children and young adults.

■ **Lincoln Center** provides services for the homeless and street people, needs gifts and toys for children and young adults.

■ **Pediatric** groups for the homeless and street people, needs gifts and toys for children and young adults.

■ **Project Open** provides nutritional services for the homeless and street people, needs gifts and toys for children and young adults.

■ **Seva Foundation** and development with local community range of sustainable (1786 5th St., Berkeley). Contact Jovida Ross at 597-1619.

■ **Solid Foundation** provides services for pregnant women and children (2577 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland). Contact Minnie or Brenda 6490. Toys, groceries, gift certificates, canned goods, non-perishables, baby clothing and books for children, diapers, pens, car seat covers are needed.

■ **Women's Daytime Center** provides support and referral for women and children (1810 Hopkins St., Berkeley). Contact Claudia at 548-4381. Adopt and help with children are needed.

Abortion foe takes his message to road

By Rowena Coetsee
STAFF WRITER

A woman raps on the driver's side window of Gregg Cunningham's truck.

"That's disgusting! You have no right!" she rails, incensed by the larger-than-life, bloody photographs, purportedly of aborted embryos and fetuses, splashed along the sides and back of the vehicle.

She retreats only when an armed security guard pulls up in his car and warns the woman over a loudspeaker to step away from the truck parked in a shopping center parking lot.

After nearly six months of cruising California freeways with his fleet of moving billboards, Cunningham's seen plenty of hostile reactions to his in-your-face tactics, and he doesn't blink an eye as he and another truck slowly pull into Interstate 680's rush-hour traffic Monday morning.

Cunningham, 54, is executive director and founder of the Center for Bioethical Reform, an anti-abortion, nonprofit based in Anaheim that he founded in July 1990 after giving up his career as an assistant U.S. attorney to devote himself to the cause. He also was elected to the Pennsylvania state legislature in the late 1970s for two terms.

Small convoys of trucks have been circling the Bay Area for last week during peak morning commutes when motorists are most likely to get an eyeful — painted on the trucks' sides are huge images of what appear to be tiny bodies that Cunningham's organization contends were

aborted during the first trimester of pregnancy.

Cunningham does not tolerate accusations that he uses doctored or otherwise inaccurate photographs. He serves critics with written warnings of a lawsuit attached to documents attesting to the authenticity of every image.

The images are a potent weapon against abortion, Cunningham says.

"Once they've given it a glance, it's in their heads and we've accomplished our purpose," Cunningham said. "This is psychological warfare. We do not fight fair. We're right in your windshield."

The goal is to prick the public conscience, to force people to acknowledge that abortion is not an abstract concept but the violent death of a human being, Cunningham said.

Calling the trucks a "sensationalistic demonstration," a Planned Parenthood official said accurate information on birth control — not gore — will help reduce the number of abortions.

"Let's face it — the real purpose of this kind of demonstration is to stir up emotions," said Mitzi Sales, vice president for external affairs at the organization's regional headquarters in Concord. It would be more sensible for people like Cunningham to spend their time and money disseminating contraceptive information to obviate the need for abortions in the first place, Sales said.

Cunningham took his crusade on the road after encountering stiff resistance from those con-

trolling the conventional methods of mass communication.

Radio talk-show hosts have tried to silence Cunningham by hanging up on him, keeping him on hold while callers railed against him or cutting him off in mid-sentence.

"Three words into my answer I get shouted down," he said.

After reading about the ever-increasing volume of traffic in the United States, Cunningham realized that the country's transportation system was the ideal way reach a captive audience.

"You can't hang up on (trucks), you can't shout (them) down," he said.

To protect themselves against those who might take more drastic actions, Cunningham and his helpers wear bullet-resistant vests, are flanked by armed guards and have multiple video cameras running.

For the most part, Monday's motorcade drew curious stares and double-takes. On the Bay Bridge a motorist honked at the trucks, then made an obscene gesture.

But the flak doesn't come only from secular quarters.

The reaction of the Christian community has "essentially been negative," Cunningham said, contending that many believers minimize the effects of abortion either out of guilt over having had the procedure themselves or because they haven't done more to stop it.

Reach staff writer Rowena Coetsee by calling 779-7141 or via e-mail at rcetsee@oactimes.com

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PTA NEWS

Albany Middle School

Interested parents may receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Linda Okamoto at ltoprn@earthlink.net

Dec. 3, Principal's Coffee, 8-9 a.m., AMS Room 117
Dec. 6, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., a.m.S Library SCRIP Orders: Call Edna Shipley at 527-0745 or e-mail Edna at ednaming@aol.com.

Reminder: Turn in General Mills boxtops to office.

Cornell Elementary

SCRIP Orders: Call Mark Priven 528-2082 or e-mail Mark at privwest@pacbell.net

Marlin Elementary

Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Tree Stuber at marintree@aol.com

SCRIP Orders: Call Helene Class at 510-526-4902 or e-mail Helene at h.class@att.net
Paper Scrip for sale in the of-

El Cerrito PTA NEWS

Council of PTAs

Membership dues payments are due now to Michele Eureka, El Cer-

rito PTA. Reports, current dues, dues, tax and workbooks (2 copies each) are due to Michele Eureka, El Cer-

Middle School

PTA for \$7 per membership. Payment of \$7 per membership includes the membership dues, address, phone number, name, along with your photo. Send in your photo to Adams PTA, 5000 El Cerrito, Richmond, CA 94804. Circle, Richmond, CA 94804. December each PTA will receive an invitation to a Social Event to be held on December 14. The class will be preparing for the event. The VAPA academy will be holding some great entertainment. Please be sure your student, grandparents, friends join the PTA so they can enjoy the evening.

Elementary

Castro is enrolled in ID#137627554. All target, and SchoolPop programs. Call Peggy

Albany Middle School

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Cornell Elementary

SCRIP Orders: Call Mark Priven 528-2082 or e-mail Mark at privwest@pacbell.net

Marlin Elementary

Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Tree Stuber at marintree@aol.com

SCRIP Orders: Call Helene Class at 510-526-4902 or e-mail Helene at h.class@att.net
Paper Scrip for sale in the of-

ice Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 and Monday and Friday at 9:30 a.m.

REMINER: Save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.

Ocean View Elementary

SCRIP Orders: Call Kim Denton at 510-524-3355
RECYCLE used computer printer cartridges. Look for bins in the library.

AUSD Board of Education

Dec. 11, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD Calendar

Dec. 24-Jan. 4, Winter Break: NO SCHOOL

THANKS: to Albany School-CARE (an independent fundraising organization) for their ongoing efforts to sell SCRIP benefiting Albany PTAs.

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 510-525-0363 or e-mail: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

Wilcox at 236-0761 to find out how you can benefit Castro when you shop.

El Cerrito High

Dec. 4, PTSA meeting - 7:30 p.m. in room 812.

Dec. 6, PIZZA NIGHT - 5-8 p.m. at Pizza Roma at the El Cerrito Safeway shopping center at San Pablo Ave. and Mooser in El Cerrito. Mention the school when you dine in or take out and 25 percent of all pizza sales will be donated to ECHS.

Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m. WORKSHOP - "Understanding Your Teen's Moods" with Richard Rodriguez as our guest speaker. Room 812 - El Cerrito High School. This is a free workshop and is open to everyone throughout the East Bay Area. Co-sponsored by the ECHS PTSA and West Contra Costa Adult Education.

Dec. 11, Winter Concert I - Concert and Symphonic Bands, 7:30 p.m., Cafeteria. Admission: \$5.00/adults, \$2.50/children OR bring some baked goods for our bake sale and get in FREE!
Dec. 12, Page Turners, the El Cerrito High School Book Club for parents, students, and teachers will meet to discuss Bee Season by Myla Goldberg. ECHS, Rm. 808, 7:00 p.m.. We look forward to seeing familiar faces as well as new faces at our get-together where conversation is stimulating and lively, reflective and surprising. Please join us!

GAUCHO CARDS - The Music Dept is selling Gaucho Cards to help support the 5 different

bands, Orchestra and Choir at ECHS - \$10. These cards give the owner discounts at various stores and restaurants in our community. To purchase one contact an ECHS music student OR call 524-9714 and leave a message.

NEW SCRIP SALES: El Cerrito High School PTSA is enrolled in the eSCRIP program. Our group ID is 5221087

Keep informed: Join the ECHS email forum. To sign up, please email Joann Steck-Bayat at jsbayat@home.com. Portola Middle School

Teen Center - Monday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Community Center. Fee - \$6 drop in or \$50 monthly. Great activities, trips and special events. Call 215-4370 for more information.

E-mail forum - School information and meeting notices direct to your email box. Send your e-mail address and request to be on the mail list to Kathy Travlos travlos@dnai.com.

Items? Call Linda Takimoto at 237-6183 or e-mail: ltakimoto@yahoo.com

Property tax assessments calculated upward before economy slumped

Increases may prompt homeowners to appeal their latest assessment

By Yvonne Condes
STAFF WRITER

Assessors offices could face an onslaught of property assessment appeals next year and some are gearing up for it.

Although the Bay Area economy is in a slump, more than 13,479 Contra Costa County property owners saw their property tax assessments increase anywhere from 5 to 25 percent this year. In Alameda County 5,000 were raised an average of 15 percent.

In both counties, the assessments went up because the property tax bills homeowners received recently reflect the market as of Jan. 1, 2001, when the economy was healthy.

Bills won't reflect current economic conditions until next year and Contra Costa has already fielded a few inquiries about the 2002 assessments, said Kent Rose, a Contra Costa assessors office principal appraiser.

Homeowners were concerned about how the Sept. 11 attacks have affected the economy and essentially their property values, Rose said.

"We're keeping an eye on that," he said. "If someone does call in, we're going to acknowledge their interest in the value and track that as of Jan. 1."

That's the magic date. Assessors will evaluate the market as of Jan. 1, 2002 and determine whether properties qualify for a Prop. 8 reduction.

Voter approved Prop. 8 allows counties to temporarily reduce property assessments when the market is weak and bring them back up when the market is

strong. During the recession of the early 1990s, many Bay Area residents enjoyed smaller tax bills. When the economy began to flourish in the late 1990s, properties were reassessed upwards.

For example, if a homeowner bought a house in 1990 for \$200,000 and had it reassessed in 1993 under Prop. 8 at \$170,000, the homeowner could see a \$30,000 increase when the house returns to its base value. But that's not all. Each year the property assessment was subject to a maximum 2 percent increase.

That results in an increase in property taxes, but it also reflects the true value of the home, said Steve Dawkins, an assistant Contra Costa County assessor.

"All we are doing is reflecting the equity they got back due to the rise in the market," he said.

It's not too late to appeal the current year's tax bill, but the bill does not reflect what is happening to the economy now.

Fewer homeowners appealed their assessments in Contra Costa and Alameda this year than in the past.

Many people were not surprised by the increase because the county does a good job of educating the public, said Contra Costa County Assessor Gus Kramer. The county sent out letters explaining the increase.

What may confuse taxpayers is a bill higher than the 2 percent increase allowed by state law, said John Wolfe, executive vice president of the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association.

Prop. 13 allows maximum tax increase of 2 percent annually over the property's base value, unless the owner sells or remodels the residence.

Many Contra Costa home-

owners appealed in 1999 after 46,000 Contra Costa residential and 5,000 business properties were returned to market value. From 1998 to 2001, 63,000 property owners saw their assessments rise to the base levels, under Prop. 8. Some 2,800 Contra Costa properties still have lowered assessments.

Kramer expects more appeals, but does not anticipate the real estate market to dip as far as it did in the early '90s.

"We're not seeing the prices fall like we did in the last recession," he said.

The property owners who should be looking most closely at their assessments are those who bought their houses in the past year, when the real estate market was really hot, Kramer said. Anyone who feels their property is assessed too high should file an appeal, he said.

In Alameda County, only 1,000 parcels are still getting the Proposition 8 tax relief, said Alameda County Assessor Ron Thomsen.

Thomsen said his office will evaluate the market Jan. 1, as it does every year. If it appears that property values are declining, the office will make the appropriate adjustments.

Solano County Assessor/Recorder Robert Blechschmidt said he does not anticipate an increase in appeals. The real estate market has remained steady in the county, where most of the 36,000 properties receiving Prop. 8 relief have returned to their base values.

Reach Yvonne Condes at 925-977-8432 or ycondes@cctimes.com

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New school bond measure will go to voters in March

■ West Contra Costa trustees agree to seek \$300 million to pay for repairs to the district's middle and high schools

By Kara Shire
TIMES STAFF WRITER

For the third time in five years, West Contra Costa County voters will decide if local schools will get a multimillion dollar, bond-financed makeover.

The West Contra Costa school board voted 5-0 during a special Wednesday morning meeting to place a \$300 million bond measure on the March ballot, saying the money is needed to pay for facelifts at 15 crumbling and time-worn middle and high school campuses.

If needed, the bond also specifies the money can be used to complete Measure M projects at district elementary schools.

"I'm very excited that we can now go forward and do the work we need to do for the rest of our schools," said Superintendent Gloria Johnston.

"If we're going to be a high-performing district, we need high-performing schools."

With the bond election go-ahead in place, West Contra Costa joins a host of other school districts — Mt. Diablo, John Swett and Contra Costa Community College — looking for taxpayer funding in March under the lower 55 percent approval margin allowed by Proposition 39.

The 55 percent threshold, although easier to reach than the

traditional two-thirds vote, brings with it increased oversight, including annual financial and performance audits, a strict project list, and a citizen oversight committee.

For West Contra Costa, the \$300 million bond request would come just 15 months after voters overwhelmingly approved the \$150 million Measure M bond to pay for upgrades and reconstruction of the district's 41 elementary schools.

In 1998 voters also approved a \$40 million bond — the first school bond in 40 years — to pay for construction of a new Richmond middle school and fix deteriorating campuses districtwide.

Despite the \$190 million in school funding West County voters have approved in recent years, school district officials say another \$300 million is needed to complete an estimated \$500 million worth of work at ailing schools.

"We've got kids who are freezing in their classrooms because there isn't sufficient heating," said school board member Pat Player. "You can't learn in that kind of environment."

Included in the district's laundry list of bond projects are seismic assessments; removal or abatement of asbestos, lead-based paint and other hazardous materials; and the repair or upgrade of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at all district schools.

Dozens of specific projects at each of the middle and high schools are also spelled out in the bond. Included in that list are new windows, doors and carpet-

ing at several schools, as well as long-hoped-for fixes, such as replacing leaky glass windows at Helms Middle School, an all-weather track at El Cerrito High, new ceilings at Crespi Middle, and new cafeteria tables and gym bleachers at Kennedy High.

If passed, a \$300 million bond would levy an average annual cost to homeowners in Pinole, San Pablo, El Cerrito, Richmond and parts of Hercules of \$49.91 per \$100,000 of assessed home value.

For more information or to receive a copy of the proposed bond projects, call 510-620-2245.

Kara Shire covers education. Reach her at 510-262-2798 or kshire@cctimes.com.



ACCORDING TO JAPANESE legend, one who folds 1,000 origami cranes pleases the gods and grants a wish. The Japanese 1 and 2 classes of El Cerrito High School teacher Satake were inspired by this legend and the story of Sadako Sasaki, who was 2 at the time the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Sasaki was bombed, and died of leukemia 10 years later — her wish was to recover. The El Cerrito students folded their cranes to express their sorrow over the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attacks and their wish for peace. Satake's daughter strung the paper cranes together; the class plans to hang them from cranes to New York City.

Albany schools plan ways to net more library funds

JOURNAL STAFF

ALBANY — The Albany school board has unanimously approved a district library media plan that could net the district up to \$80,000 next year that would be used for updating collections.

At the Monday night meeting, four members of the district library faculty (one high school representative, one middle school and two elementary) presented the board with the plan that is a necessity to secure funding from the California Public School Library Act of 1998.

Since the inception of the act, the district has received funding all three years, but might be left out of the loop next year due to state cutbacks.

If this is the case, the faculty asked the board to allocate funding in next years' budget to update stacks at each site.

Currently, the average age of collection at the high school, mid-

dle school and Marin elementary (numbers have not been completed at Cornell and Ocean View schools) is from 1976, 1986 and 1983 respectively.

State Superintendent of Public Schools Delaine Eastin set a statewide standard earlier this year for all public school libraries to have 20 books per student.

Only Marin currently meets that standard with 22 per student, with the high school and middle school at 14 and 16 respectively.

The faculty listed a few goals for next year that included investigating internet filtration systems, more use of technology at each site, and increasing staff time.

The elementary school libraries do not have a full time librarian on site that will need to be addressed next year, faculty said.

Help for the homeless comes with HUD grants

BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

The Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department reports it has received \$12 million in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grants for programs to help the homeless.

The grants will help to keep 26 county programs that help homeless people in Alameda County find permanent and transitional housing.

The money will also help launch a new program, the Russell Street Residence of the Berkeley Emergency Food and Housing Project, which will create 18 new housing units for mentally disabled residents.

The amount of this year's grants is \$200,000 more than HUD gave the county last year. Alameda County is second only to Los Angeles County in the amount of grand dollars received.

Grants include a total of \$2.1 million for Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency, a com-

munity group that will use the money to operate five programs to help house people with mental disabilities, AIDS and drug problems.

The group Jobs for the Homeless Consortium received more than \$2.5 million that will allow it to provide intensive job training and employment services to more than 1,000 homeless people.

Commenting on the grant announcement, Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty said: "This award . . . reminds us all that in this time of national crisis, we must not forget to continue to support programs that serve those in need in our communities."

Also, the Jobs for Homeless Consortium's Homeless One-Stop Welfare-to-Work Employment Support System in Berkeley will receive an \$1 million renewal of its HUD grant to help provide employment services.

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<p>Simmons</p> <p>The Exceptional Collection</p> <p>1408 Pocketed Coils in 2 layers for the ultimate in durability and comfort.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Triple-Choice</th> <th>Summit Top</th> <th>Ultimate Luxury</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Extra Firm • Plush • Pillow-Top</td> <td>10% more space than a Pillow-Top</td> <td>Visco Foam • Summit Top</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Queen Set 1699.99 King Set 2199.99</td> <td>Queen Set 2279.99 King Set 2679.99</td> <td>Queen Set 4489.99 King Set 5289.99</td> </tr> </table>	Triple-Choice	Summit Top	Ultimate Luxury	Extra Firm • Plush • Pillow-Top	10% more space than a Pillow-Top	Visco Foam • Summit Top	Queen Set 1699.99 King Set 2199.99	Queen Set 2279.99 King Set 2679.99	Queen Set 4489.99 King Set 5289.99	<p>Chatham & Wells</p> <p>Crafted by hand, 8-Way Hand-Tied Box Springs</p> <p>Portrait Edge, Latex Foam, Visco Foam</p> <p>Extra-Firm \$1999 \$2299 Queen Set King Set Euro Top \$2399 \$2799 Queen Set King Set Laytex \$4899 \$5899 Queen Set King Set</p>	<p>SPECIALTY BEDDING</p> <p>ADJUSTABLE BEDS</p> <p>\$799 \$1899</p> <p>Controlled Motion Dual Motor Control Extra-Firm Adjustable Bed</p> <p>Queen \$1399 King \$1599</p>
Triple-Choice	Summit Top	Ultimate Luxury									
Extra Firm • Plush • Pillow-Top	10% more space than a Pillow-Top	Visco Foam • Summit Top									
Queen Set 1699.99 King Set 2199.99	Queen Set 2279.99 King Set 2679.99	Queen Set 4489.99 King Set 5289.99									

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Real Estate & Home

Supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairian, The Piedmonter

Friday, November 30, 2001

☆ Section B

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B4]

Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B11]

Berkeley, Oakland remodelers take home honors at NARI awards gala

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE REMODELING INDUSTRY
The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the National Association of Remodeling Industry (NARI) recently announced the winners of its prestigious Remmie Awards for Excellence in Remodeling Construction of Berkeley and Oakland Kitchens of Oakland among the those who took home first prize.

In the Contractor Division in Entire House Design, Acorn Kitchen and Baths also won a second award taking second in Bath Design. FMS Projects of Oakland was honored with a Merit Award in Entire House Design.

Jetton presented a particularly challenging project for the Remmies. The company took a 9,500 square-foot Berkeley home and accomplished a top-notch restoration with custom additions and structural improvements. The company replaced the structural, electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems in the home. The extensive oak wainscot, oak floors and light fixtures were restored, and Jetton installed custom cabinetry in the home office. Work on the library included the restoration of a turn-of-the-century credenza from the Hearst estate.

Acorn Kitchen and Baths met the challenge of the home owners who are world travelers. The owners chose a theme for the kitchen that represented an upscale country kitchen in Italy.

Acorn paid special attention to the kitchen's "Stone Grotto." After World War II, the owner's father brought special tiles back from Italy. He intended to use them in his dream home, something that he

never realized. Now it was time to use them in this home, but there were only enough tiles for the backsplash behind the stove. A local artisan was employed to add faux limestone bricks to the "Grotto's" face.

Acorn's clients had acquired tableware from many countries and requested that the remodeler build a space to display their treasures. Acorn designed a hutch area with custom arched doors.

The theme of the hutch area complements and reinforces the arch of the "Grotto," allowing each element to support the other.

Acorn also designed an informal dining area in the kitchen for its clients. One corner of the room was built to accommodate a small table that allowed both a place for quick snacks and a place for the clients to keep some books.

Acorn incorporated a second family heirloom into the kitchen

building a space to use an antiqued butcher block that once graced the butcher shop of one of the client's family.

NARI is a nonprofit trade association that works to educate and enhance the professionalism of the residential and commercial remodeling industries.

Bay Area members include professional contractors, subcontractors, architects, consultants, interior designers and consultants.



ACORN KITCHEN AND BATHS MET THE CHALLENGE OF THE HOME OWNERS who are world travelers. The owners chose a theme for the kitchen that represented an upscale country kitchen in Italy. The remodel included a "Stone Grotto."



JETTON TOOK HOME A REMMIE FOR THIS PARTICULARLY CHALLENGING PROJECT: a 9,500 square-foot Berkeley home. Jetton accomplished a top-notch restoration with custom additions and structural improvements.

Drop Off Point for Toys for Tots

THERE IS NO
SUBSTITUTE
FOR LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE



Enchanting Tudor - 1848 San Ramon
Beautiful home on quiet street w/ grand living room, updated eat-in kitchen opens to backyard. 4BR, 2BA, 2 fireplaces, some views Truly Special!

Helene Barkin x124

\$795,000



Private Park!
With pool & tennis court & very low dues, the park is adjacent to this beautiful property & creates one's own resort! The home has 4BR, plus au pair suite, library & formal dining room.

Bebe McRae x145

\$2,300,000



Designed By Ratcliff
In prestigious Claremont Court, this home offers very spacious proportions with great charm! The property features 5 bedrooms, office, large family room, formal dining, 4.5 baths, level entry & a fenced yard!

Bebe McRae x145

\$1,100,000

BERKELEY



36 Roanoke - New Listing!
Remodeled Claremont home! Light & bright! Vaulted ceilings, large living/dining room, opens to kitchen, 3BR/3BA, study, garage, garden. Excellent condition!

Susie Schevill x144

\$550,000



726 Euclid Avenue
Spectacular Mediterranean Estate on flawless North Berkeley site. Designed by Arthur Duden & built in 1931, never before on the market. Large (41 acre) lot & grand (3,690 sq. ft.) home with unobstructed Bay views & pool; 4BR, 3.5BA; paneled library; butler's pantry & more!

Tricia Swift x140

\$1,750,000



596 Euclid - Pacific Heights in Berkeley
An elegant architectural traditional in the Berkeley Hills w/ gorgeous Bay views. Richly detailed & appointed 5+BR, 3.5BA, wonderful floor plan w/decks, garden & a gourmet kitchen! Generous spaces include an expansive in-law.

Anne Van Dyke x137

Susie Schevill x144

\$1,325,000



542 Santa Barbara
Spacious and exciting Brown Shingle, San Francisco views. 5BR & 2+ BA. Separate studio/office. Versatile home in sought after location. Walk to coffee.

Ruth Frassetto x147

\$925,000

54 Vincent Road - VIEWS & LOCATION
Rare, large parcel of view land in fabulous location near the Claremont Hotel. Two parcels were merged to create this incredible 32,000 sq. ft. lot. Mostly level, neighborhood of distinguished homes.

Faye Keogh x126

\$1,650,000

Fabulous, Unobstructed Bay Views!
Charming 3BR, 2BA with craftsman touches. Light filled, great floor plan for entertaining. Big yard & wonderful 2nd unit with separate access.

Anne Van Dyke x137

\$799,000

2335-37 Blake Avenue
Wonderful triplex opportunity! Great "Walk-To" location: U.C., bookstores, shops & restaurants. Two structures, one lot. Back owners unit: 2BR, 2BA; front is a duplex: 2BR, 1BA & 3BR, 1BA.

Anne Van Dyke x137

\$625,000

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Taking a look around the real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

ATTENTION PUBLIC

Building Education Center

If you're handy around the house or want to learn how, the Building Education Center in Berkeley is the place for you. BEC provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays and daytime classes on the weekends. Topics cover power tools, concrete work, retrofitting, plumbing, interior design, carpentry and solar electricity, to name only a few. You can call the center for class information and cost. Contact **Sydney** at 510-525-7610 or visit the Web site at bldg-edu.org.

Senior Care Guides

Georgia Richardson of Richardson Real Estate Services is offering *New Lifestyles*, an area guide to senior residences and care options. Guides are available for the San Francisco Bay or the Sacramento/North Bay areas. To obtain a complimentary issue, contact Richardson at 510-569-3499.

REALTOR.com

If you are interested in buying or selling real estate research reports confirm that REALTOR.com remains the number one website choice of consumers. "REALTOR.com is the most useful place to visit for people with an interest in real estate," said National Association of Realtors President **Richard A. Mendenhall**. The site receives support from hundreds of thousands of Realtors. Check it out at REALTOR.com.

JOHNSON WCR PRESIDENT

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter announced the date for their annual installation of officers. It will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 14. Outgoing President **Denise Smith** of Royal Realtors & Loan Services will pass the gavel to **George Johnson** of Ameristar. The ceremony and luncheon will be held at His Lordships, in Berkeley. The oath of office will be administered by the WCR Governor, **Linda Ellen Anderson** of Prudential Realty. For reservations call 510-462-8200. To learn more about WCR, visit its Web site at wcr.org.

2001 AAR PRESIDENT INAUGURAL

Hadi Monsef of Mason Management will take over the reins from **Ann Bracci** of Gallagher & Lindsey, as the 2002 President of the Alameda Association of Realtors. The inauguration is scheduled

for Thursday, Dec. 13, at 11 a.m. with a Social Hour. The event takes place at the Oakland Yacht Club, on Pacific Marina, in Alameda. To reserve your place call **Kristin McMahan** at the AAR office, 510-523-7229.

98TH OAR INAUGURAL

The Oakland Association of Realtors is accepting reservations for their upcoming 98th Inaugural Luncheon. The 2001 President, **John Holmgren** of Holmgren & Associates will hand over the gavel to the 2002 President, **Evelyn Walker** of Coldwell Banker. It will be held on Friday, Dec. 7, at 11:30 a.m., at the Claremont Resort Hotel. A special presentation will be made to the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. For tickets call **Judith Boren** at 510-836-3000.

BAR INSTALLS NG

100 years and still going strong. Reserve Thursday, Dec. 13 as the date for the upcoming Berkeley Association of Realtors Inaugural. A dinner/dance will take place at the Claremont Resort Hotel, with a cocktail hour beginning at 6 p.m. Outgoing President **Steve Yoshimuro** of Nakamura Real Estate will welcome incoming President **Miriam Ng** of Korman & Ng. For ticket information call **Don Clark** at 510-848-4288.

FUND FOR FOUNDATION GROWS

Her promise grew to become. The Oakland Association of Realtors wants to do something extra to help support the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. The foundation provides college scholarship funds for Oakland high school students. A committee, chaired by **Evelyn Walker** of Coldwell Banker was formed to create a simple and easy way for those in the real estate community to contribute. Real estate agents and brokers may designate contributions, at the close of escrow, for a special fund. The proceeds of the fund will be donated to the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. Over \$14,000 has been raised so far, but to reach the end of November goal of \$18,000 everyone's help is needed. To find out more and participate contact Walker at 510-339-4778.

BROKER'S LICENSE

New state regulations now make it faster and easier to get a broker license. Attendees will learn changes and revisions, math shortcuts and test tips. Receive live class test preparation with instructor **Minnie Lush**. For more information call Executive Programs at 1-800-416-1996.

LICENSE RENEWAL SEMINAR

Renew your real estate license.

Attend and earn all 45 DRE credit hours at once. The seminar includes Agency, Ethics, Trust Funds and Fair Housing. The seminar meets from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7. The instructor will be "The Real Estate Guys" talk show host, **Charlie Krackeler**. Seminars are held in a variety of Bay area locations. For more information about attending to renew your license call 1-800-54-RENEW.

WANTED COMMERCIAL BROKERS

Bob Valva of Valva Realty invites Oakland real estate brokers to attend the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee. According to Valva the group was appointed years ago, by the Oakland mayor to facilitate city sales and leasing. The committee's purpose is to help build Oakland. The next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the OAR Auditorium on Webster. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

ASSISTANT TRAINING

The Oakland Association of Realtors is offering "The Assistant Training Program", a four part course to train real estate assistants. This course is being presented in cooperation with the Contra Costa and Delta Association of Realtors. Real Estate Business Service, Inc., a subsidiary of The California Association of Realtors will instruct. Assistants will learn the steps of the transaction, what they can and cannot do and technology to make their jobs easier. The program is held on Dec. 4, 8, 11 and 13. The location is the Contra Costa Association of Realtors in Walnut Creek. The fee for the complete four course program is \$195 or \$75 per course. For registration or an informational flyer contact **Laura Bailey** at 925-295-9238.

INTERNET PROFESSIONALS

The National Association of Realtors introduced the new e-PRO. A real estate industry technology certification program for real estate professionals. The e-PRO course was designed by realtors for realtors. The course is presented entirely online and certifies real estate ad-brokers as Internet Professionals. Realtors are able to complete their studies at their own pace. If you are interested in learning more visit <http://www.eProNAR.com>.

ATTENTION MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS

The California Association of Mortgage Brokers (CAMPB) strives to keep mortgage professionals ed-



BOBBIE REID
Credit Worthy

ucated and informed. A dinner meeting is held monthly, with guest speakers discussing timely topics. Networking kicks off each CAMB meeting, held on the fourth Thursday of each month. To find out more call the CAMB Hotline at 925-275-2663.

CARL Christmas

Mark your calendars. The CARL Christmas Cocktail Party is on Thursday, Dec. 6. Crow Canyon Country Club is the location. Unwrapped toy donations are appreciated for the Toys for Tots Program. For more details or to call the CARL Hotline at 925-746-1847.

Join the lively Wednesday Morning Breakfast Meetings, presented by the California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL). Meetings are held every Wednesday at American Title in Walnut Creek on Olympic boulevard. Start time begins promptly at 8:15 a.m. Breakfast refreshments are served. Need info? Want to recommend a speaker? Call **Pat Johnson** of TRI Commercial Real Estate Services at 925-296-3300.

WHO'S ON FIRST?

Bob Munoz, head of Independent Real Estate Brokers Corporate announced a new addition to the company, real estate agent **Nancy Randhawa**. Randhawa speaks English and Hindi. To say welcome call her at 510.276.7900.

Georgia Richardson has announced the addition of Broker-Associate **Rosemary Greene** to Richardson Real Estate Services, in Oakland. To say congrats call Greene at 510.569.3499.

Someone new at your company? Something special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. I'd love to let the world know. All my contact info is listed below.

WHAT'S UP DOC?

I need your information for this column. Fundraisers, meetings, announcements, promotions, designations and change of scenery (company). I want to know it all. Information deadline is two weeks before the event. There are three convenient ways to reach me. Send an email to bobbierid@dotplanet.com. Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191. Call me at 510-441-7190.

Remodeling can be fun

Through these columns and our company's other efforts over the years I have tried to help those of you considering remodeling to have realistic expectations.

I have talked about the hassles. How much time is needed for planning. How to find the right people to work with and what can go wrong if you make a bad choice. And the time it takes to make decisions while the project is underway. Will the project ever get done? What if something goes wrong?

When I speak about remodeling in a seminar we give every three months or so, I tell people I am not trying to scare them. I just want them to know about all the potential pitfalls. I realize that in all the work I am doing to give people a realistic perspective. However, I have been leaving out one of the most important things to consider. Remodeling can be a source of tremendous excitement and satisfaction.

The possibility of transforming a space to serve your needs better is so exciting. The creative process is invigorating and filled with possibilities. What needs to be done? What can you afford to do? What changes will solve the most problems?

Your awareness of the world around you is heightened. When you go to a friend's house you see things you never noticed before. How have they dealt with the same problem? What do you like in the finish and fitting choices you see there? Where did your friend get these things?

Coming home, you bring all this information and insight with you. The plan changes and evolves. Talking with your housemates brings up new ideas. When the planning is done and just before the work starts you can't wait. It seems like so much time has gone since you started thinking about the project.



PAUL WINANS

The first day when the interior designers come to your home and see what you have taken care of, the space is a total mess. As the work goes on, around you, you see the reality of what is going on paper for so long. Now you can go through the new view and check it out. The installation of the new space is getting closer to done. The sound changes. Everything is a contrast to the forest like framing. You start seeing furniture mentally, now that you can see the real changed space. Finally it's done. All the work you put into the home. When the first color you sit in it to see if what you built fits your house and it does! What a great feeling.

You will never forget the process. The planning and building work have taken place, changed both you and the home. Now you get to live the results. What an exciting time to experience! Give it a try. For with the inevitable problems, the benefits are so great you need to yourself to take a chance.

Paul Winans is a co-owner of Winans Construction, Inc. an Oakland-based residential remodeling company. You can contact Winans Construction at 510-462-7288 and learn more about it at www.winconinc.com.

Real estate assistant training

So you need an assistant, but don't have the time to train one? You have an assistant, but they could use additional training?

The Oakland Association of Realtors is offering a four-course program for real estate assistants. "The Assistant Training Program," T

The program is from 1 to 4 p.m.,

on Dec. 4, 8, 11 and 13. The complete four-course program is \$195. or \$75 each. The course is the Contra Costa Association of Realtors in Walnut Creek. For registration or an informational flyer contact **Laura Bailey** at 925-295-9238.

—Bobbie

Realtors offer scholarship

Application deadline is Monday

The West Contra Costa Association of Realtors is offering a \$3,500 cash award scholarship to a college student interested in pursuing a major course of study in a real estate, business or related field.

The criteria for the selection for the recipient include:

- residency in West County, Kensington through Crockett
- an academic profile that includes current enrollment in a

course of study relating to real estate or business or related fields

- extracurricular college activities
- availability to receive the award at the January 2002 West Contra Costa County Association Inaugural Dinner.

Applications are available at the West Contra Costa Association of Realtors office, 423 46th St., Richmond. Completed applications must be received Monday, Dec. 3. For more information, call **Shirley Zeelen-Sowell** at 510-233-1152.

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Oakland

\$159,000 1430 2nd Duplex! Two beds, presd, south of work. **PENDING** Needs lots of work. **Kathy** 510-814-4706

\$198,000 3W Embarcadero 227. Quaint super private unit on second floor with carport parking. One bedroom with double doors. Walk to Jack London waterfront. Next to channel "2". Donnaluci 510-814-4826

\$195,000 1317 Center St. Large Victorian! Contractor special! 3bd, 2ba, formal dining, finished basement. Great location. **Kathy** 510-814-4706

\$225,000 930 Pine St. Perfect for live/work! Approx 1400 sq. ft. 14' ceiling, skylites, & roll up door. Needs work! Good location. **Kathy** 510-814-4706

\$358,000 8048 Greenly Dr. Single level 2 bd, 1ba bungalow! Large eat in kitchen and family room. Large deck and in-ground pool in private yard. Donnaluci 510-814-4826

\$629,000 2015 Hoover Ave. View of Bay and East Bay Hills! Located in the Parkmore District. 3bd, 2ba, formal dining, basement workshop. Large deep backyard. **Russ** 510-814-4713

\$299,000 14406 Seagate Dr. Lovely townhome with marble entry, 2bd, 2.5ba, all appliances included, wet bar in sunken living room. Patio near stream. **Tere** 510-814-4840

Hayward

\$309,000 42 Dutton Ave., OPEN SUN, 2-4 Completely upgraded single level 2 bedroom, 1 bath, bungalow! New paint inside and out. New roof, heater, water heater, carpets, washer, dryer, and garage. Detached garage and new fences. **Tom** 510-814-4841

\$329,000 14248 Outrigger Dr. Beautiful tile floors in kitchen & bathrooms. 3bd, 2.5ba, patio and 2 one-car garages. Near golf course/tennis courts, pool & spa. **Tere** 510-814-4840

\$340,000 14265 Seagate Dr. Original owners! 3bd, 2.5ba, 2 car garage. Laundry. Attached garage. **Tere** 510-814-4840

\$439,888 16615 Rolando Ave. OPEN SUN, 2:30-4:30 Panoramic View of City and Bay! Spacious living room with full 180 degree view! 4+bd, 2.5ba. Attached 2-car garage. **Nina** 510-814-4836

\$455,000 1491 Oriole Ave. Residential Income! Looking for a fixer? This is it! Two duplexes. Good size lot. Located near shopping and transportation. **Linda** 510-814-4843

San Leandro

\$299,900 20 Trestle Dr. French country charm-large 3bd, 2ba and unit! Remodeled kitchen and bath on main floor. Master suite, dining room, master suite. Attached garage. **Margaret** 510-814-4829

Orinda

\$99,000 El Toyonal, Rawland - Initial plans for a 3bd, 2ba home have been preliminarily designed. Lot is approx. .75 acres, wooded with views. Steep up-slope in established neighborhood. **Russ** 510-814-4713

7028 Thorhill Drive, Montclair

This charming traditional 3BR/2BA is located on the level lot with views. Exquisite detailing throughout. Spacious rumpus room & new kitchen.

Offered at \$689,000

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OAKLAND

5448 FOOTHILL BLVD. NEWLY PAINTED & CARPETED. Great floor plan, zoned C-30. Huge family sized kitchen, solid quiet home with lovely backyard for picnics. \$239,500. Call Ruth Masonick for appointment. 510-748-1101

3261 BONA ST. LOCATED ON A CUTE LITTLE STREET. 2 bedroom 1 bath. Home when you can own! \$210,000. Call Kelko McDonah. 510-522-4449. Honesty & Diligence

2901 - 75th AVE. LARGE 4 BEDROOM HOME. Quaint & Charming Tudor with approx. 3000 sq ft & some view. Just reduced to \$340,000. Mary Ann Herber. 510.568.2040

PANORAMIC WAY. 2 LOTS. These lots are located side by side in a beautiful wooded area with a great view of the San Francisco Bay Area. Priced at \$45,000. **Kathy Ghiselli**, 510-522-6425

RICHMOND

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4. 2215 SEA SHELL DR. MARINA BAY! Spacious 3 bedroom, 3 bath condo at Marina Bay with hardwood floors, new paint. \$355,000. Michael Studebaker, 510-748-1129.

SAN LORENZO

16156 SILVERLEAF DR. DESIRABLE FLOOR PLAN. Great location, 4 years new. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, family room with hardwood floor, kitchen with island, low maintenance yard \$428,000. Moon Tam. 510-747-1620.

CASTRO VALLEY

18313 PEPPER ST. ON QUIET STREET. SAC. Great home on quiet street. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, new kitchen, hardwood floors, new paint. \$475,000. Stan Lachman. 510-748-1101

CONCORD

1036 OAK GROVE RD. 4TH FLOOR UNIT IN A GREAT LOCATION. Watermark! Excellent location. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, new Good location. \$139,500. David Wilmore. 510-568-2040

ALBANY

555 PIERCE ST. 3200 VIEW OF BAY & HILL FROM THIS CORNER. Moon Tam. 510-747-1620

DANVILLE

1055 SAN RAMON VALLEY RD. INVESTORS! SELLER WANTS OUT. \$275,000. Convenient location. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bath, new kitchen, hardwood floors, new paint. \$475,000. Stan Lachman. 510-748-1101

ORINDA

320 TAYLOR RD. GREAT FLOOR PLAN. All 3 bedrooms on main floor. 4 bedrooms, full bath & patio. 3 car garage. \$475,000. Moon Tam. 510-747-1620

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The continuing adventures of Nick and Annie

ues," Annie said. We explained that one of the owners is an artist; the sculpture and the big, bright paintings on the walls and on the wood floor of the huge kitchen are her work. Back at the front porch, we got our shoes on again. "This house is cool," said Nick. "I want it," said Annie. "Can we buy it?"

Realizing suddenly that I'd missed seeing the elevator, I asked if anyone else had seen it. Anet said she had. Annie couldn't believe there was an elevator. "Where was it?" Then, "It looks like a regular closet? Let's go back and see." But we already had our shoes back on again, and we had places to go.

The rain had stopped as we parked in front of a beautiful million dollar house on Southampton. We walked through the large entry, living and dining rooms to the kitchen where the agent was handing out printed information and offering plates of elegant food: fruit and individual grilled lamb ribs. Nick picked up a rib to chew on.

Back in the car, I commented on how nice the spring lamb was. "Spring lamb?" Nick asked, sounding troubled. "Is this the kind they get from baby lambs? No? Oh, then it's OK."

At another house I didn't introduce the kids right. Annie glued herself to my side and demanded to know why I had to say her name is Annabelle when I didn't call Nick "Nicholas." I rolled my eyes.

Both of them were impressed by the dramatic cracks in the lower level concrete floor of a fixer house. Annie took one look and said, "Let's get out of here."

I teased, "If there's an earthquake right now, we'll probably fall through the floor."

"Stop it, Mom. That's not funny," Annie hissed. "You're scaring me."

At another house, Nick stood in a teenager's room admiring the numerous posters on the walls. We tore him away. "How much is this one?" they asked on our way to the next house. "It is that more or less than our house would cost?"

The second time I stepped on the long strip of cloth trailing from one leg of Annie's jeans, bringing both of us to an abrupt stop, I suggested she cut it off.

But, of course, we didn't have scissors with us and besides, she explained, the jeans weren't hers. She'd borrowed them from a friend, they were like this when she got them, and both she and her friend like them this way. "It's the style, Mom."

In and out, up and down we went. We ate bagels and lox smear, apple tart, eggplant on focaccia and jelly beans. Alas, there was no sushi.

After 10 or 12 houses, it was all calm routine: Get out of the car, walk through the house, take something to eat if it was offered, say hello if called upon, and leave. The kids were mostly silent but several times they did ask, "How many more?"

Near the end, perhaps at the 20th house, we saw an agent with his teenage son, the only other back-to-work kid we saw that day. "He goes to Monteria," the kids told us, seemingly glad to see one of their own.

At the end, standing in a living room, Annie leaned on me, cooily clasping my hand. I was struggling to record in my mind what I was seeing and I urged her to go out front and wait for me. "Why?" she asked. "You're not doing anything. I can be here."

Sounding, I'm sure, just like a mother, I said that it might not look like I was doing anything but I was, and I could do it better if she were elsewhere. Reluctantly she moved a foot away, impatiently waiting.

Our tour ended about one-third, four hours after we had started. "I'm tired," said Annie. "Let's go to the hot dog place for lunch," said Nick.

Anet Tarpo and Pat Talbert are licensed real estate agents who specialize in single family houses. They also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached by e-mail at patanet@lmi.net or by phone at 510-653-2050.



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Lois can be reached at the Grand Lake office of Prudential California Realty, 510-834-2010; fax 510-834-3841; voice mail 510-287-2521; e-mail Lois.Harris@PruWeb.com.



LOIS HARRIS
REALTOR

Lessons from Havana

Part one of three parts

Long before the California Gold Rush began, Havana, Cuba was the center of the gold trade in the New World. As the wealthiest city in the Western Hemisphere for three centuries, Havana processed all of the gold that came from the Spanish colonies in the New World before it was shipped back to Spain.

The legacy of those fabled years is a treasure trove of historic architecture from Spanish Colonial times that is unrivaled by any other city in this hemisphere. In fact, Havana's historic district, or "Habana Vieja," is considered valuable enough by the United Nations to be protected as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The historic buildings of Habana Vieja have suffered a great deal from the poverty and neglect of the past 42 years under the regime of Fidel Castro. But during the last several years, Castro's government has begun encouraging foreign investments in the restoration and adaptive reuse of many of Havana's his-

toric buildings. And although U.S. companies and citizens cannot participate in any of this activity (because of our own government's antiquated trade embargo against Cuba), there is a lot that we here in the Bay Area can learn from the legacy and restoration of the historic architecture of Havana.

In order to understand the value of the architectural treasures of Habana Vieja, it is necessary to know some of the history of that city. Havana was founded in 1512 by the Spanish conquistador Diego Velasquez, and was moved to its current site in 1519.

Thus, Havana is the oldest metropolis in the Western Hemisphere, predating even Mexico City, which was founded in 1521. Havana grew rapidly during its first two-and-a-half centuries, and by the later 18th century it had nearly 300,000 inhabitants, three times as many as New York City had at that time.

Some of the very first historic structures to be restored in Havana were the four stone fortresses that

protected Havana Bay from attack by pirates. The oldest of these is the small Castillo de Real Fuerza, the oldest extant structure in Havana and the oldest surviving fort in the Western Hemisphere. It was begun in the 1560s by the order of King Philip II of Spain after the city was sacked in a particularly devastating pirate raid.

Completed in 1577, it was restored under the regime of the dictator Batista, and today it houses a very popular history museum.

A few blocks to the northwest stands another small fortress, the Castillo de San Salvador de la Punta, begun in 1589 to repel foreign warships, which were becoming increasingly bold in their attack on the city. During my first visit to

See WILSON Page B4



MARK WILSON
Drawing A Piece of History

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Montclair Better Homes Realty

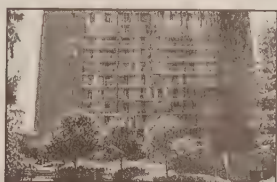
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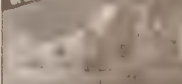
One story end unit, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, completely remodeled. New carpet, new appliances. Overlooks courtyard.

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OPEN SUN. 2-4



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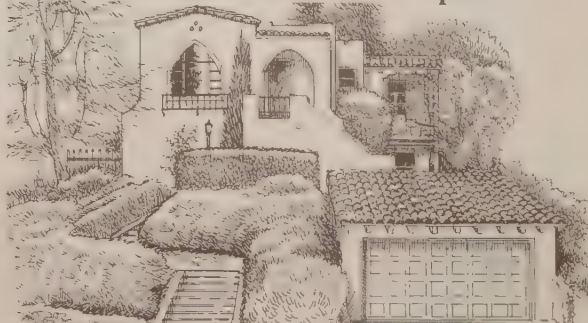
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Wilson

FROM PAGE B3

Havana in June of 2001, it was being restored by the Cuban government for use as a future museum of the gold trade in Spain's New World colonies, including the precious contents and artifacts from various shipwrecks found off the coast of Cuba.

The most impressive fortress in the greater Havana area, which dominates the entrance to the harbor like some great medieval castle overlooking a European city, is the massive Castillo de los Tres Reyes del Morro, or El Morro for short.

It was begun in the mid 16th century, when Queen Elizabeth I of England was a young girl. It is located in La Habana del Este, or East Havana, at the northeast corner of the harbor.

Its lighthouse shines as a beacon that can be seen from many miles at sea, as well as from nearly every part of the shoreline of Havana itself. Its walls are 10 feet thick, and today it is open to the public as a restored historic landmark, with small exhibits of Havana's colonial history and several gift and souvenir shops for tourists.

About a third of a mile to the southeast, on the cliffs standing guard over the Canal de la Entrad (or Entrance Canal) is the Fortaleza de San Carlos de la Cabaña. The "youngest" of Havana's colonial forts, it was built between 1764 and 1767, after the brief occupation of Havana by British invaders.

A restoration of the fort was begun several years ago, though it is still not complete at present. The section that has been restored contains a series of history museums, including one that houses a collection of Che Guevara memorabilia from the years

when Che used the fort as his headquarters after Fidel Castro took power in 1959.

Currently, there is an interesting ritual performed at this fortress every night, when at 9 PM the old colonial ceremony of "the firing of the cannon" is re-enacted by actors dressed in eighteenth century military uniforms.

The first style of architecture to be imported to Cuba from Spain in early the 16th century was Mudejar. This was a blend of Medieval Spanish architecture with features borrowed from Moorish buildings of the Muslim period in Spain. Features such as star windows, ornately carved open beamed ceilings, and four-sided arched courtyards (or cloisters) were common on the Mudejar buildings in Cuba between the early 1500s and the late 1600s.

Some of the best examples of Mudejar architecture in Havana Vieja are the Casa de la Obra Pia, a superbly restored two story hacienda built in 1665, and the adobe-walled residence currently used as the Office of the City Historian, built in 1570 and the oldest intact house in Havana. The next style of Spanish Colonial architecture to be imported into Cuba was Spanish Baroque, which was popular from the early 18th century until the early 19th century. The local limestone in Cuba was harder to work with than the types of stone found in Spain.

Thus the neoclassic decorative details of Spanish Baroque in Cuba, such as curved gables, niches, and engaged (or attached) columns, were simpler than their Spanish counterparts. Outstanding examples of Spanish Baroque architecture in Havana include the Cathedral, built between 1748 and 1777, and the Palace of the Captain Generals, completed in 1780.

After Spanish Baroque came a succession of ornate styles that blended elements of Victorian ar-

chitecture in England and the United States with some traditional Spanish materials and decorative details. During this period, which lasted roughly from 1840 until about 1910, many houses and public buildings in Havana incorporated bright and colorful stained glass windows, very high ceilings, rich wood paneling on interior walls, glazed floor tiles with intricate geometric patterns, and ornate metal grillwork across windows.

Most of the private homes, residential hotels, and commercial buildings along Havana's most elegant street, the Prado, retains these fancy features from the final days of Cuba's Spanish Colonial period. Today, Greater Havana is a bustling metropolis of nearly 3 million people, or about one quarter of the entire population of Cuba.

According to a recent inventory of the historic architecture that has survived in Havana, there are 150 buildings in the city dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries, more than 200 from the 18th century, and nearly 500 from the 19th century. Still, nearly 600 historic buildings in Old Havana have been lost by simply collapsing after severe weather over the past 10 years.

Therefore, the task of preserving and restoring the remaining architectural treasures of this remarkable city has become an urgent priority.

The challenges that face the city government of Havana in trying to save its historic buildings, and how some of them have already been restored, will be the topic of parts two and three of this series.

Mark A. Wilson is a Realtor and architectural historian who works at Prudential California Realty's Albany office. He can be reached at 510-273-9383. Visit him at www.topbroker.com/wilson.

WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

1841 9th St - \$305,000
3044 Alta Vista - \$319,000
103 Bay Pk Terr #21E - \$402,500
1611 Bay St - \$440,000
2023 Buena Vista #C - \$415,000
1700 Cornell Dr - \$503,000
405 Lagunaria Ln - \$414,000
876 Oak St - \$240,000
2137 Otis Dr #220 - \$280,000
1807 Sherman St - \$361,000
2101 Shoreline Dr - \$270,000
1260 St. Charles St - \$1,195,000
1023 Tahiti Ln - \$361,000
1049 Tahiti Ln - \$368,000
209 Tipperary Ln - \$685,000
1333 Webster #A30 - \$187,000
1311 Webster #E20 - \$131,000
1115 Willow St - \$340,000

ALBANY

1508 Albany Tr - \$435,000
701 Buchanan St - \$350,000
810 Madison St - \$659,000
1044 Ordway St - \$646,000
912 Pierce St - \$320,000

BERKELEY

1621 62nd St - \$270,000
2104 6th St - \$275,000
1540 Ada St - \$255,000
1253 Ashby Av - \$279,000
1527 Buena Av - \$395,000
1906 Chestnut St - \$350,000
885 Contra Costa Av - \$580,000
1144 Francisco St - \$470,000
1517 Holly St - \$530,000
2734 Piedmont Av - \$850,000
1312 Poe St - \$299,000
16 Quail Av - \$654,000
1849 Shattuck #307 - \$109,000
1228 Stannage Av - \$360,000
2640 Stuart St - \$237,500
730 The Alameda - \$640,000
1654 Tyler St - \$400,000
1801 University #302 - \$260,000
1825 Vine St #5 - \$267,000
2711 Virginia St #4 - \$260,000

EL CERRITO

1641 Arlington Bl - \$420,000
136 Carmel Av - \$335,000
796 Colusa Av - \$405,000

6531 Morris Av - \$310,000
104 Seaview Dr - \$360,000

EMERYVILLE

8 Admiral Dr #A23 - \$318,000
22 Emery Bay Dr - \$225,000

OAKLAND

1631 100th Av - \$225,000
1345 103rd Av - \$207,000
982 105th Av - \$151,000
1470 12th St - \$98,500
1660 14th St - \$212,500
2002 25th Av - \$288,000
1310 31st Av - \$282,500
2033 41st St - \$285,000
2243 42nd Av - \$135,000
1313 54th Av - \$215,500
1449 57th Av - \$200,000
677 57th St - \$289,000
1214 58th Av - \$216,000
823 59th St - \$285,000
894 61st St - \$275,000
2215 62nd Av - \$185,000
2208 65th Av - \$280,000
1084 65th St - \$230,000
2527 67th Av - \$253,500
2851 69th Av - \$299,000
2956 75th Av - \$310,000
2901 82nd Av - \$198,000
2240 89th Av - \$175,000
2539 8th Av - \$370,000
2212 92nd Av - \$195,000
2231 96th Av - \$330,000
9820 A St - \$175,000
1004 Aileen St - \$290,000
383 Alcatraz Av - \$575,000
9772 Anza Av - \$380,000
970 Appar St - \$225,000
2090 Arrowhead Dr - \$449,000
3909 Atlas Av - \$245,000

2118 Bunker St - \$195,000
161 Broadway - \$195,000
827 Broadway - \$195,000
240 Calaveras - \$195,000
153 Convent - \$195,000
3030 Coolidge - \$195,000
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3435 Dimond - \$195,000
5106 East 10th - \$195,000
5716 East 14th - \$195,000
3000 East 15th - \$195,000
2230 East 22nd - \$195,000
2047 East 23rd - \$195,000
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4046 Everett - \$195,000
2828 Filbert St - \$195,000
3537 Galindo - \$195,000
1442 Grand View - \$195,000
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808 Grosvenor - \$195,000
3222 Harover - \$195,000
6443 Hillegass - \$195,000
6308 Hillmont Dr - \$195,000
8630 Hillside - \$195,000
6107 Hilton St - \$195,000
3223 Joaquin - \$195,000
4014 Lakeshore - \$195,000
50 Lane Ct - \$195,000
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3368 Madiera - \$195,000
1303 Magnolia - \$195,000
2033 Melvin Rd - \$195,000
8008 Michigan - \$195,000
3009 Minna - \$195,000

See SALES Page B2

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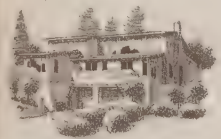
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RIDGEMONT \$1,550,000
13494 CAMPUS DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Magnificent new 5BR/4.5BA. Large, elegant spaces around a central courtyard. Dramatic living rm, canyon views, gourmet kit & luxurious master. Kathleen Callahan x343



CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,500,000
7070 NORFOLK RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Spectacular 5BR/4.5BA w/great views. Separate office or guest suite. 4-car tandem garage. Private patio. Francis Heath x357



PIEDMONT \$1,495,000
340 LA SALLE AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Stately Mediterranean w/rich architectural detail. 5BR/3+BA, formal dining, den & rumpus room. Beautiful gardens. Georgia Cornell x325



CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,250,000
7133 NORFOLK RD. (Open 2-4)
Stunning 1 year old contemporary w/4BR/4.5BA. Unique design, great light. Master suite w/fireplace, lush canyon & bay views. Dee Knowland x318

Your San Francisco Bay Area Real Estate Resource

Open Sunday



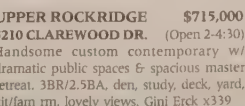
UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,150,000
6205 MATHIEU AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Charming English-style Tudor w/hall timbers, gabled roofs & bay windows. Architecturally distinctive w/great use of natural materials. 4BR/3.5BA. Charlotte Boyle x370



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$895,000
108 SHERIDAN RD. (Open 2-4)
Terrific 6 year old 5BR/3.5BA. Light & airy loaded w/style. Easy living. Level-in, yard. Dee Knowland x318



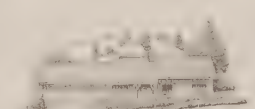
MONTCLAIR \$734,000
6097 COLTON BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)
Level-in 4BR/3BA home w/SF, Bay & canyon views. Flexible floor plan, updated kit & hardwood flrs. Prime location near the Village & freeways. Teri Carlisle x305



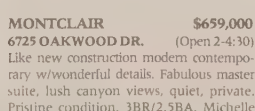
UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$715,000
5210 CLAREWOOD DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Handsome custom contemporary w/ dramatic public spaces & spacious master retreat. 3BR/2.5BA, den, study, deck, yard, kit/fam rm, lovely views. Gini Erick x339

Open Sunday

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$699,000
815 PALOMA AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Charming 3+BR/2.5BA Traditional w/great details. Completely remodeled in 2000, master suite w/whirlpool tub, hardwood floors, light & sunny. Close to Lakeshore shops. Michelle Vasey x359



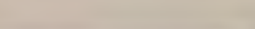
PIEDMONT \$675,000
461 SCENIC AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Great views, great location, great opportunity! Great ideas could turn this home into a gem. 2BR/2BA, dining area, deck, 2-car garage. Dick Cohen x308



MONTCLAIR \$659,000
6725 OAKWOOD DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Like new construction modern contemporary w/wonderful details. Fabulous master suite, lush canyon views, quiet, private. Pristine condition. 3BR/2.5BA. Michelle Vasey x359



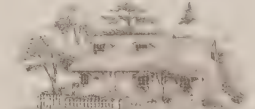
UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$625,000
4647 HARBOR DR. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Charming 3BR/2+BA 1937 Traditional w/formal dining, hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen & level yard. Minutes to SF transportation. Jeffrey Himmel x307



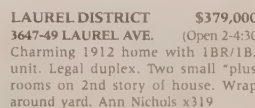
Open Sunday



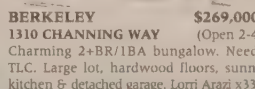
BERKELEY \$599,000
1238 M. L. KING WAY (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Stylishly remodeled 4BR/2BA Bungalow w/separate 2 room studio & bath. Large private garden. Light filled & inviting rooms w/great details. Leslie Avant x341



LEONA HEIGHTS \$439,000
5130 MOUNTAIN BLVD. (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Charming 2-story home in a lovely wooded setting studded w/maple trees. 3BR/2BA, hardwood flrs, plus rm w/DSL & updated tile kitchen. Joan Haase x358



LAUREL DISTRICT \$379,000
3647-49 LAUREL AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Charming 1912 home with 1BR/1BA unit. Legal duplex. Two small "plus" rooms on 2nd story of house. Wrap-around yard. Ann Nichols x319



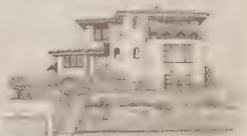
BERKELEY \$269,000
1310 CHANNING WAY (Open 2-4)
Charming 2+BR/1BA bungalow. Needs TLC. Large lot, hardwood floors, sunny kitchen & detached garage. Lorri Arazzi x330

By Appointment



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$2,200,000
Exquisite new custom built Mediterranean villa. Elevator, 4-car garage, views, terraces. Total quality & beauty. 5100+/- sf. 5BR/4.5BA. Dee Knowland x318

CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,875,000
5+BR/4.5BA. Splendid new home w/piano SF & GG views. Gourmet kit/fam rm. Luxury master suite. Approx. 1/2 acre. Nancy Noman x373



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$900,000
Sharp & stylish 1997 Mediterranean with great Bay views. 4+BR/3BA, formal dining, master suite with fireplace, terrace. Best value in Upper Rockridge! LEASE OPTION WELCOME. Dee Knowland x318

CLAREMONT HILLS LOT \$630,000
SF & Bay view lot framed by large greenbelt canyon. Private road serves 4 luxury homes. Soils report, survey & architectural blueprints included. David Ichikawa x331

MONTCLAIR \$530,000
Lovely 2+BR/2BA home on large wooded lot. Den w/outside access, large deck, 2-car garage & lots of off-street parking. Kathleen Callahan x343

MONTCLAIR \$469,000
Dramatic contemporary w/captivating parkland vistas. 4BR/2BA, updated kitchen, 2 fireplaces, 2-car gar. A bright & airy retreat in a peaceful setting. Chuck Corwin x353

BERKELEY \$325,000
2-story loft, rear unit w/separate BR & plus room. Hardwood floors, many upgrades, secured parking. Great location. 1BR/1BA. Chuck Corwin x353

ROCKRIDGE \$195,000
Updated 1BR/1BA condo. Pergo in entry & kitchen, balcony, great complex w/pool, spa, exercise rm, BBQ area. Close to Piedmont Ave. & Rockridge. Easy commute to SF. Rich Gould x347

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JUST LISTED

398 Adams Street #201 • \$189,000
Adams Pt. Condo. 1 BD/1 BA. New paint and carpet. Large balcony, good floorplan w/extra closets. Secure building.
1st Sunday Open Dec. 2nd 2-4:30 p.m.



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California Realty

Charming light-filled bungalow

Open Sun. 2-4



2140 Spaulding
\$399,000

Lovely fenced yard, graceful floorplan
Sociable front porch, lovely yard
Two bedrooms, two full baths, updated kitchen

Mary Canavan **THORNWALL Properties** (510) 848-1950 x212



New Listing!
Open Sunday

Dec. 2nd
1:30 - 4 pm

Listed at \$305,000

"FAIR LADY OF FAIRVIEW"

ON THE BERKELEY/OAKLAND BORDER
678 FAIRVIEW STREET, OAKLAND

This two bedroom, one bathroom bungalow is a sweetheart!
Located on a quiet, one-block street in an up-and-coming neighborhood - one of those well-kept secrets!

Period details • all wood floors • welcoming porch
spacious kitchen • formal dining room • generous garden
whimsical play house



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6936 Balsam Way

Montclair "Loft-Style" Retreat

Open Sunday 2-4. Just off Skyline Drive - Bike riders' delight! An inspirational home offering seclusion and style amid the trees. Unique architecture captures the serenity of nature and light through soaring spaces. Huge deck is perfect for entertaining, just minutes to trails, shopping and highways. \$469,000

500 Vernon Street, Suite 308

Lovely Rose Garden Condo

Open Sunday 2-4. Large, light and airy two bedroom, two bathroom condo with marble-tiled fireplace in one of Rose Garden's best managed buildings. Amenities incl. private patio, swimming pool, sauna, fitness & secure parking. Easy freeway access & convenient to downtown Oakland. \$298,000

967 46th Street, Emeryville

Great Starter Home

This charming cottage has been lavished with care and completely re-done. Hardwood floors, new kitchen, new copper plumbing, and bolted. Large basement. \$238,000



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new to the hills newspapers



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

Stella Aurora Terrace - Fremont
Beautiful low-rise near hills. Lots of trees, convenient to BART shopping and park. Two bedrooms, spacious living room with fireplace. Formal dining area. Backyard patio, one car garage. Easy access - parks on W. Packer. Just a few steps to most don't.

\$274,950



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

128 Lloyd Ave. - Fremont

Perfect for young and senior! Charming single level home on tree-lined street. Three bedrooms, large living room with vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace. Spacious yard. Numerous fruit trees, garden area & shed. Two car garage with lots of storage.

\$410,000

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46 Yosemite Avenue, Oakland

- Spacious two bedroom, one bath apartment with high ceilings and flooded with light
- Tenant parking in the rear of the building
- Excellent outdoor living
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- One of four apartments in a charming, well maintained building

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Like Living at a Resort

Spectacular Upgrades Throughout!
Open Sunday 2-4 pm



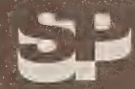
2101 SHORELINE DRIVE #351, ALAMEDA \$389,000

Large, light and airy 2 bedroom, 2 bath condominium home at The Willows. Spacious living room with large stone-tiled fireplace, cathedral ceilings, and oak plank floors. Formal dining room, 'great' room, updated kitchen with granite counter tops and eating bar, and one bedroom and bath on the main level. Baths have new fixtures, glass mosaics with marble detailing and skylights. Freshly painted, new sisal carpet & laminate floors in kitchen & 'great' room. This unit faces the beautifully landscaped courtyard, has 2 decks, 2 secure parking spaces and a partial bay view from the fourth floor master suite. Amenities incl 2 gyms, 2 saunas, handball court, hot tub, clubhouse and large pool heated year round. Approx. 1500 sq. ft.

For a virtual tour of this property, log onto www.seetbuyit.com

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2BR, 1BA 5332 Rosalind (Open Sun 1-4) Charming old-world beauty! Refinished oak hardwood floors, lovely gardens, w/a creek in the back. #01039953. www.cynthiaburke.com 510-662-8528

VIEWS OF SAN FRANCISCO AND THE BAY!

\$525,000

4BR, 2BA over 2000 sq. ft., w/possible in-law. Hardwood floors, interior laundry, 2 car att. garage w/interior access, fireplace. #01038949. Noreen Buller 510-662-8532

RICHMOND VIEW

BARGAIN OF THE YEAR

\$222,000

2 BR/1 BA Spanish style home, almost 1000 sq. ft., needs some TLC. Central heating, dining area, nice yard. #01039367. Jerry Garner, 510-662-8495.

BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED HOME

\$289,777

3+BR, 1BA, updated kitchen, 2 car detached garage, RV parking, workshop. Landscaped front and back. #01037397. Leslie Dopp 510-222-8340

RICHMOND HIGHLANDS/EL SOBRANTE



DRAMATIC COLONIAL ON QUIET CUL-DE-SAC

\$429,950

125 Mitey Mite. (Open Sun 2-4) 3BR, 3BA gracious home w/large family rm w/Bruce hardwood flrs & pellet stove, fireplace in living rm, formal dining rm, huge flat private backyard w/enormous new redwood deck w/hot-tub/spa, updated kitchen & baths, master bedroom suite w/new tile, new neutral Berber carpets, 3 car attached gar. Don't miss! Geri Stern 510-662-8469

PT. RICHMOND

MARINA BAY LUXURY LIVING

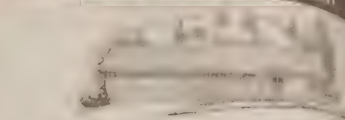
\$484,988

3BR, 3BA Stroll the water front, watch for sunsets. Large immaculate home with loads of upgrades. #01036257. 510-662-8528

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461 Scenic Avenue

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Great views, great location, great potential could turn this home into a potential available and decorating finesse the mid-century look! Features: 2 Bedrooms (including master suite), Living room with Dining area, Deck, 2 Car attached garage.



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Hardwood floors • Backyard studded w/mapple trees



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NEW LISTING!
Open Sun. Dec. 2 • 2-4:30

The House With Gorgeous Park View
9908 Golf Links Road, Oakland
3 BR/2 BA house offers large living room w/fireplace, large workshop & storage, 2 car garage w/interior stairs, large landscaped level yard makes this a special home for the avid gardener & entertainer. This home has it all! Asking \$368,000

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4 Units - nr Walnut Sq, Berl \$595,000
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4 Units - Incl sep Cottage, Berl \$425,000
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4+ / 3 - Stunning renovation \$895,000
2 / 1+ - Charming, fireplace \$499,000

EL CERRITO

Lot - Killer views, hills \$325,000

KENSINGTON

1 / 4 - Home + au pair, views \$790,000

RICHMOND

Cottage + sep office \$199,900

SAN LEANDRO

2 / 1 - Contractor special, BART \$249,000

DANVILLE

1 / 3 - Elegance + pool, hills \$959,000

PLEASANT HILL

1 / 2 - New kit, fireplace, nr trails \$415,000

PLEASANTON

1 - Great views, hills \$569,500



New Listing!
2910 Devon, Richmond \$230,000
Open Sun 12/2 2-4 pm



Elegant Listing!
6216 Hillegass, Oakland \$825,000
Call for Appointment

Join Red Oak at our art show openings!

Artist Diana Smith: Pastels & Watercolors

1891 Solano Avenue - December 7, 6 - 8 pm

Artist Melanie Hofmann: Digital Art

2983 College Avenue - December 14, 6 - 8 pm

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Berkeley Hills \$2,195,000
Gorgeous home w/steep 12 room villa atop the Berkeley Hills. Spacious LR, huge DR, master bedroom, luxurious master and bath. Views, wine cellar, tranquil gardens with new decks, patio & much more. Barbara Marienthal (510) 486-1495



High Quality Construction \$998,000
Built in 1998, impeccable condition. Lot lg. (510) 486-1495



Great Value \$1,895,000
Gorgeous home w/steep 12 room villa atop the Berkeley Hills. Spacious LR, huge DR, master bedroom, luxurious master and bath. Views, wine cellar, tranquil gardens with new decks, patio & much more. Barbara Marienthal (510) 486-1495



Great Value \$995,000
Gorgeous home w/steep 12 room villa atop the Berkeley Hills. Spacious LR, huge DR, master bedroom, luxurious master and bath. Views, wine cellar, tranquil gardens with new decks, patio & much more. Barbara Marienthal (510) 486-1495



Great Value \$995,000
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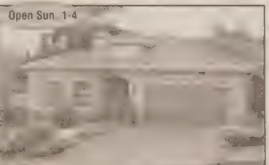
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MONTCLAIR/PIEDMONT SIDE \$599,000
Ideal location! Great space, outlook & ambiance. Wooded Bay views. One family since '54. Remodel to taste. Sound home 3 BD/2.5 BA. Rita Zwerdling (510) 486-1495



ENCHANTED GARDEN \$776,000
3BR/1.5BA. Tudor w/sunny attic & fanciful spa retreat under a rare dawn redwood. Gourmet kitchen & nook. Jeanne McHugh (510) 486-1495



50 SHERIDAN, UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$689,000
3 BD/2 BA Mediterranean built in 1994. Bay View, all level, HWF, FP, newer paint in/out, new garage door. Ellen Lancaster (510) 339-4700



2930 MADELINE, LAUREL \$419,000
3 Bd/2 BA. Light-filled contemporary. Open floor plan, formal dining area, eat-in kitchen, master suite, private deck. Rachel Baller (510) 339-4700

OPEN SUNDAY

28 Drury Lane, Berkeley. 4BR/3.5BA...\$2,195,000...SUN 2-4
4 bridge view from elegant 12 room villa atop the Berkeley/Oakland hills. Spacious LR, huge DR, spectacular kitchen, luxurious master and bath, family room. Study, wine cellar, tranquil gardens with a stream, decks, patio & much more. David DeZerega (510) 486-1495

1140 Shattuck, Berkeley. 5BR/3BA...\$1,250,000...SUN 2-4
Exceptional 20's home restored & remodeled in '98. Dana Cordeiro (510) 486-1495

13848 Campus, Oakland/Ridgmont. 4BR/2.5BA...\$998,000...SUN 2-4
Complete in Y2K, impeccable condition. Lot lg. enough for pool. Nadine Del (510) 486-1495

25 Shawnee Ct. Hillcrest Highlands. 4+BR/3BA...\$799,000...SUN 1-4
Handsome, almost level, contemporary on approx. 1/3 acre landscaped grounds. Stunningly designed & luxuriously appointed. Fritz Hochfeller (510) 339-4700

6560 Estates Dr., Montclair. 4+BR/3BA...\$675,000...SUN 1-4
Tongue-in-groove beamed ceilings in living/dining rooms, 2 fireplaces, random plank & hardwood floors, 2-car garage. Nancy Dickey, CRS/Becky Anderson (510) 339-4700

25 Forest Lane, Berkeley. 3BD/2BA...\$649,000...SUN 2-4
Enchanting old world details w/modern kitchen. Formal LR & DR. Barbara Marienthal (510) 486-1495

5777 Harbord, Oakland. 3BR/2.5BA...\$599,000...SUN 2-4
Walk to the village! Grand space. Use your imagination to remodel. Rita Zwerdling (510) 486-1495

2512 9th St., Berkeley. 2BR/2BA...\$575,000...SUN 2-4
Versatile live/work loft. Tiled kitchen, bath & spa. High ceilings, wood burning stove, 2 distinct spaces, 2700+ sq. ft., rooftop deck. Alice Wong-Roth (510) 486-1495

5037 Pierpoint, Joaquin Miller. 4+BR/2.5BA...\$560,000...SUN 2-4:30
Sunny, spacious Traditional. Great floorplan, level rear yard, convenient cul-de-sac location close to parks & shopping. Darcy Diamantine (510) 339-4700

1336 Campus Dr., Berkeley. 2BD/3BA...\$499,000...SUN 2-4
Artist's delight, great rm, redwood, cathedral ceilings, stained glass. Bobbie Giaratana (510) 486-1495

19992 Shadow Creek Cr, Castro Valley. 3BR/2BA...\$499,000...SUN 2-4:30
Three-year-old model w/all the extras included. Great gourmet kitchen, plus office & large den. Judy Rankankan (510) 339-4700

6260 Girvan, Piedmont Pines. 3BR/2BA...\$499,000...SUN 2-4:30
Level in w/level yard, updated kitchen & baths, hardwood floors. Move right in - \$300 pest. Clean! Judy Rankankan (510) 339-4700

2411 Burlington, Lincoln Heights. 2BR/1.5BA...\$499,000...SUN 2-4:30
Sweet 2BR/1.5BA on wonderful cul-de-sac. HWF, built-ins, archways, balconies, FP, family rm, garage & lovely fenced yard. Rachel Baller (510) 339-4700

3842 LaCresta. 2BR/1BA...\$399,000...SUN 2-4:30
Craftsman w/most adorable kitchen, wood floors, FDR w/built-ins, large living room & entry, unfinished basement, deck. Jack Breneman (510) 339-4700

3821 Midvale Ave., Laurel. 2BR/1.5BA...\$350,000...SUN 1-4
Gorgeous Bungalow w/elegant dining room, private back yard; elegantly remodeled w/inviting gourmet kitchen. Mahnaz Judson (510) 339-4700

FIRST OPEN

1308 Cedar St., Berkeley 2BD/1BA \$439,000...SUN 2-4
North Berkeley Duplex. 2BD/1BA each unit. Delivered vacant. Updated kitchen & bath, new carpet, fenced yd., parking, laundry. Kim Marienthal (510) 486-1495

9908 Golf Links. 3BD/2BA...\$368,000...SUN 2-4:30
Family room, great view of Knowland Park, 2-car garage & gorgeous level yard. Nader Davari (510) 339-4700

3917 Madrone. 2BD/1BA...\$299,000...SUN 1-4
Lower Redwood Heights. Darling condo alternative. 2 BD/1BA w/HWF, FP, att. garage w/large attic space. Detached studio - great for artist, home office. Jeffrey Neideman (510) 339-4700

BY APPOINTMENT

Montclair. 2BR/1.5BA situated on large lot w/spectacular view, pool, wine closet & guest house. Small & intimate, yet smashing. Donna Conroy (510) 339-4700

Moraga. Mediterranean-style, spacious 3BR/2.5BA townhome only 15 years old. Great floorplan, large eat-in kitchen, 2 car garage, FP, skylights. Elena Stone (510) 339-4700

Redwood Heights. 3BR/2BA, HWF, kitchen nook, family room, garage. Delightful home, charming neighborhood, must see. Nancy Maloney/Jillian Stawn (510) 339-4700

Leona Heights. This charming Cape Cod is set on a lushly landscaped lot. 3+BR/2.5BA, huge family room, 2 car garage. All meticulously cared for. Fritz Hochfeller (510) 339-4700

Lafayette. 3BR/1BA Ranch in prime location. Living room w/FP, formal dining room, large level yard. Victor Fierro (510) 339-4700

Oakland. Unique Tudor-style 4-plex on public walkway between 14th Ave. & Wallace St. Many upgrades & improvements. Victor Ratto (510) 339-4700

Oakland. 4BR/2BA, large back yard, "fixer/as is". Don't miss it! Mahnaz Judson (510) 339-4700

Richmond. Richmond Annex 3BD/1.25BA, family room. Jane Ishibashi (510) 486-1495

Richmond-Hilltop. 3BD/2BA, Comfortable, on the corner lot, fireplace. Barbara Marienthal (510) 486-1495

LOCAL TRADITIONS
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510.339.4700

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Oakland



Open Sun. 2-4:30

Extraordinary Elegance \$599,000
New Listing! Gorgeous and huge 4 bedroom, 2 bath fabulous 1920's Mediterranean Villa. Formal dining, den, large deck, updated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, fireplace, 2,793 sq. ft. of luxury!

Vicky Friedman (510) 339-8900 x261

Montclair




Open Sun. 2-4:30

Montclair Garden Cottage \$499,000
Traditional details including hardwood floors & lovely fireplace, fabulous outdoor living with lawns, flowers, pathways & 600 sq. ft. ground-level deck! 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, updated tiled kitchen - Megawatt Charm!

Helen Nicholas (510) 339-8900 x238

Piedmont Pines



Unique New Construction \$1,198,000
Bay view + 3-car garage. Built like a rock, designed for eternity, but decor for today! Stimulating, dramatic, level-in, 5+ bedrooms, 3.5 baths, exudes "taste" + quality.

D.C. Hodges (510) 339-8900 x223

Piedmont



Open Sun. 2-4

Classic Brown Shingle \$1,095,000
Stunning 1909 Craftsman-style home, box-beamed ceilings, wainscoting in dining room, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Remodeled kitchen, family room.

Mary Hanna (510) 339-8900 x253


Crocker-Hughes



Coming Soon!!
Charming, traditional 3+ bedroom home in top Crocker location at Bay border. For more information contact:

Carol or Dana Cohen (510) 339-8900 x254

Rockridge




Open Sun. 2-4pm

Rockridge Charmer \$525,000
Understated elegance in this Rockridge gem. Gumwood moldings & trim, leaded glass built-in, HDW floors, lg. master bedroom, playful yd., garage, dog run & more! Walk to BART & College Ave.

Miriam Wilson (510) 339-8900 x300


Lake Merritt



Be at Home on New Year's! \$265,000
Big price reduction, 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo on Lake Merritt. Quiet, secure building. New carpet, new vinyl. Close to BART, AC Transit and Chinatown. Large patio for entertaining.

Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900 x230


Redwood Heights



Tudor Time! \$489,000
Stunning Redwood Heights Tudor with great architectural details. Recently updated "Stainless Steel" kitchen, newer bath. Lush, private garden. All in perfect condition.

Christian Downer (510) 339-8900 x259

Bay Farm Island




Open Sun. 2-4

Lovely Townhome in Bay Farm Island! \$359,000
Near best schools, shopping, transportation.

Peter Fletcher (510) 521-1177

Oakland



Open Sun. 2-5

New Construction!
Absolutely stunning 4+ bedroom, 3+ bath, views of SF Bay, new construction. Approx. \$200,000 + large bonus room, hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen, of the line appliances. A one-of-a-kind!

Bonnie Freitas (510) 339-8900 x255

Danville



Magnificent New Custom! \$1,699,000
At the foot of Mt. Diablo! Stunning view & sure of the art craftsmanship. Maple hardwood floors w/cherry inlay. Elegant crown molding, slab marble & granite counters.

Jerry & Gabriela (925) 314-1500


Montclair



Bay View & Level Yard \$815,000
Piedmont Pines rare combination stunning 1994 open, voluminous design, serene water vistas, level entry, level yard! 4BD/3BA, family room/kitchen Combo, 2 fireplaces.

Helen Nicholas (510) 339-8900 x238


Orinda



Views From Every Room! \$839,000
Enjoy a very private setting in this 3 bedroom, 3 bath home. Master suite w/private deck, hardwood floors, spa, on a 1/2 acre at the end of a cul-de-sac, & perfect for outdoor entertaining.

Randy Churchill (925) 975-4360

Orinda



Upgraded Interior! \$769,500
Featuring 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Opportunity to create profit. 2 story plan with private lot. New baths and kitchen.

Janice Dalton

Walnut Creek



Bright & Spacious!
Featuring 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, fireplace, kitchen w/custom features & paint, deck, spa & solar heated pool.

Velda Arnold (925) 975-4360

Montclair



3 Bed/2 Bath with Detached Cottage \$519,000
Close-in Montclair location. Walk to transportation, restaurants and shopping. Chaler-style 3 bedroom, 2 bath with detached cottage.

Helen Nicholas (510) 339-8900 x238

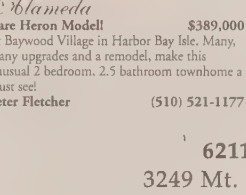
Piedmont Pines



Open 2-5 pm \$995,000
Gracious, quiet, close-in neighborhood. Built to last, both physically and aesthetically. Timeless, clean simplicity w/fabulous color palette. 4+BR & 4 1/2 BA, plus separate suite w/private entrance. Stainless, granite & hardwood.

D.C. Hodges (510) 531-7667

Blameda



Rare Heron Model! \$389,000
At Baywood Village in Harbor Bay Isle. Many, many upgrades and a remodel, make this unusual 2 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom townhome a must see!

Peter Fletcher (510) 521-1177

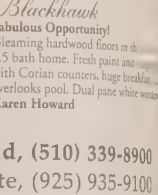
Emeryville



Beautiful Top Floor Unit \$229,000
Enjoy sunset walks along SF Bayfront. Executive 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo in Watergate. Totally upgraded & club amenities! Short commute to SF/Oakland.

E'lynn Allen (925) 778-9101

Blackhawk



Fabulous Opportunity!
Gleaming hardwood floors in this 3.5 bath home. Fresh paint and new carpet with Corian counters, huge breakfast room, dual pane white windows overlooks pool. Dual pane white windows.

Karen Howard



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BY APPOINTMENT


MONTCLAIR



6677 SOBRANTE RD \$825,000
Flowing floorplan, robust structural specifications, and high-tech features including built-in data and satellite cable, music, and central vacuum make this a must-see new home. Convenient location combines greenbelt beauty and quiet with easy access to Montclair Village! Home office, super kitchen, media room, and luxurious private master suite. 3+ BD/3.5 BA.

Peter & Ellen Nicolopoulos
531-7000 x248


LAFAYETTE



835 SIBERT CT \$975,000
Gorgeous Two Story on huge level lot. Four bedrooms, three baths, separate in-law w/fireplace & full bath. An abundance of windows adds to the warmth & elegance, gracious entertaining yet perfect for day to day family life!

Doris Taboloff (925) 943-1187

MONTCLAIR



5736 CHELTON DRIVE \$699,000
Quality custom home! One level living, filtered bay view. Level lot with Japanese garden. Three bedrooms, two baths, formal dining room, garden room & two fireplaces. Close to Montclair location.

Claire Svitek 531-7000 x274

MAXWELL PARK



3468 WYMAN \$365,000
New Listing! Four bedrooms, two baths, two-story home on great street, hdwd flrs, stone fireplace, large eat-in kitchen, updated baths, large yard w/patio, possible "in-law area."

Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228 or 436-4100


HIGH ST. TERRACE



3844 HIGH STREET \$359,000
Gorgeous custom built 2+BD/1.5BA Mediterranean. Grand living room leads to formal dining room, which opens to an enchanting sunroom beamed ceilings & arches everywhere. Delightful & serene backyard. Truly a very special home.

Heidi Tuggle 531-7000 x286 or 531-4554


MONTCLAIR



ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS NEW HOME \$1,195,000
Stylish & elegant new home w/marvelous views of the GG Bridge & the surrounding bay. Grand rooms in an open floor plan are adorn in rich, warm colors & flow splendidly. This home boasts the best kitchen around, a knockout master suite, a main-level suite perfect as home office or 4th BD & a real wine cellar & tasting room.

Mary Neuberger
531-7000x251 or 530-4148


MONTCLAIR



NEW CONSTRUCTION \$875,000
On quiet cul-de-sac across from Gate/Redwood Park. 4BD/3BA, formal dining room, large kitchen with adjoining family room. Possible lease/lease option.

David Hanna
531-7000x229 or 601-4148


MAXWELL PARK



CHARMING & SPACIOUS \$349,000
Three bedrooms, one bath, formal dining room with built-in cabinets, large sunny kitchen w/breakfast room, updated bath, huge level yard, basement with expansion potential!

Kate Phillips
531-7000x228 or 436-4100

ADAMS POINT



LARGE & LOVELY CONDO \$299,000
2BD/2BA, 1,325sqft condo. Nice front corner with a balcony enhanced by trees. Enjoy the new carpet, fresh paint & a great bldg. Neighbors appreciate.

Patsy B...
531-7000x...

4 MONTCLAIR LOT W/BLDG PLANS
Buy one, two, three, or all four lots. Beautifully designed homes! Area of new construction near Broadway. Financing terms available.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000x235 or 436-4100

PANORAMIC VIEW OF CARQUINEZ STRAIT
21.37 Acres located in town of Crockett of Hwy 80. Surrounded by EBRP, EBMUD and a few ranches. Rare opportunity to own a unique property.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000x235 or 436-4100

DEVELOP OPPORTUNITY IN MONTCLAIR!
Downsize lot with soils report, survey & underground utilities in place. Neighboring homes selling for \$400,000. Of ongoing new construction in area. Buyer to pay EBMUD front footage charge at time of hookup.

Mary Neuberger 531-7000x251 or 530-4148

ROSSMOORS BEST BUY
PRICE REDUCED! Lovely - 2 bedrooms plus bonus room and huge enclosed lanai. Lease or lease option - call Doris Taboloff 925-943-1187

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Sales

85

ALAMEDA

1700 17th St. \$160,000
1700 17th St. \$130,000
1700 17th St. \$200,000
1700 17th St. \$257,000
1700 17th St. \$249,000
1700 17th St. \$290,000
1700 17th St. \$190,000
1700 17th St. \$349,500
1700 17th St. \$399,000
1700 17th St. \$245,000
1700 17th St. \$352,500
1700 17th St. \$355,000
1700 17th St. \$312,000
1700 17th St. \$300,000
1700 17th St. \$265,000
1700 17th St. \$399,000
1700 17th St. \$370,000

813 Maine Av. \$160,000
2848 Maricopa Av. \$195,000
1467 Mariposa St. \$244,000
3033 May Rd. \$313,000
3331 Morningside Dr. \$350,000
3824 Painted Pony - \$480,000
5101 Potrero Av. \$140,000
1301 Quarry #409 - \$525,000
1637 San Benito St. \$305,000
938 Sonoma St. \$370,000
633 South 17th St. \$240,000
401 South 28th St. \$230,000
3629 Sunrise Ct. \$300,000
1016 Trailside Dr. \$513,000
1029 Trailside Dr. \$579,000
1076 View Dr. \$276,500
269 Western Dr. \$360,000
1100 Yarrow Pl. \$334,000

SAN LEANDRO

1137 Adason Dr. \$260,000
1095 Bancroft Av. \$370,000

1807 Boxwood Av. \$391,000
80 Castro St. #108 - \$200,000
2229 Compass Cv. \$489,000
16599 Cowell St. \$385,000
14789 Crosby St. \$290,000
577 Dolores Av. \$346,000
1146 Dutton Av. \$339,000
810 Evergreen Av. \$350,000
14829 Harold Av. \$300,000
943 Helen Av. \$370,000
958 Helen Av. \$333,000
15444 Jutland St. \$330,000
1863 Lakeview Ct. \$514,000
1119 Louise St. \$330,000
15771 Maubert Av. \$230,000
16118 Maubert Av. \$367,500
1026 Mersey Av. \$290,000
261 Napoleon Dr. \$495,000
2361 Overlook Ct. \$528,000
2301 Pacific View Ct. \$475,000
2320 Pacific View Ct. \$537,000
16509 Rolando Av. \$355,000
15184 Swenson St. \$325,000
631 Victoria Ct. \$485,000

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OAKLAND/PIEDMONT

*Open Sun 2-4:30! \$1,465,000
3891 Buena Vista Avenue. Lovely 5BR/3.5BA by the August Co. in exclusive area at great price!
Heidi Marchesotti
510-339-9290

Custom Piedmont Home

\$1,395,000
All level 3BR/3BA, den, solarium, game rm., Hearst Castle-style 20x45 indoor pool. Big lot.

Nancy Hinkley
510-428-0900

*Open Sun 1-4:30 \$1,250,000

1630 Grand View Dr. Lovely new 4600 sq. ft., 4BR/4.5BA home w/3 decks and serene views.

Ziggy Baranowski
510-339-9290

*Open Sun 2-4:30 \$1,025,000

16 Observation Pl. Spectacular 4BR, 3BA w/great view, special details, decks and terraces.

Howard Converse
510-339-9290

*Open Sun 1-4 \$789,000

6901 Chambers Drive. Large level yard in Montclair. 75% new construction, contemporary 4+BR, 2BA, vaulted ceilings, decks and patio on 1/4 acre.

Colette Ford
510-845-0211

*Open Sun 12/2 & 12/9 2-5 \$689,000

401 Hiller Dr. 3BR/3BA on Hiller Highlands. Beautiful architectural spaces, many skylights, vaulted ceilings, 2 fireplaces, 2 sunny patios, bright loft and remodeled kitchen.

Ivan & Michael
510-527-9800

Coming Soon! \$649,000

Oakland-Rockridge, 2BR, remod. kitchen, h/wf., frpl., great bay view! Spacious h/m. ofc., decks, more.

Logene Butler
510-524-2526

Oakland Hills \$585,000

Large 2-story ranch-style, beautiful setting, spacious 3+BR, 2BA.

Terri Ingram
510-834-2010

*Open Sunday 2-4:30 \$569,000

2539 Amy Drive. Charming 40x12 2BR, 1BA w/remodeled kitchen and bath.

Gene Boomer
510-339-9290

*Open Sun 2-4 \$499,000

7114 Sayre Beautiful cottage! 3BR, 2BA. Charm, charm! Close to transportation. Truly amazing home, don't miss this! Motivated!

Ernie Sexton
510-845-0200

*Open Sun 2-4:30 \$489,000

7110 Saroni Dr. Great 3+BR, 2BA w/updated kitchen and bath. Income potential!

www.davidotero.com
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Architectural Gem \$458,000

Two lofts near Jack London - design and function. Live, work and play near water.

Joan Morrow
510-845-0200

ALAMEDA 510-337-8670

ALBANY 510-524-2526

EL CERRITO 510-527-9800

GRAND LAKE 510-834-2010

OAKLAND/PIEDMONT

*Open Sun 2-4 \$429,000

4323 Leach Ave. Live in Glenview. Cute Medit. fixer with views! 2BR, 1BA w/unit downstr. Hrdwd. flrs., large yard, light!

Candice Economides
510-845-0200

Glenview Charm! \$425,000

2BR/1.5BA with loft area. Eat-in kit, LR & DR with h/wf. Walking distance to Glenview shopping area.

Monica Forrester
510-845-0211

Rosegarden Home \$399,000

Rosegarden home plus in-law, perf. cond. Formal DR, LR, flpl., hwd. flrs., deck, 2BR/1BA. Plus 1BR/1BA in-law.

Herman Luna
510-428-0900

An Exceptional Co-op \$385,000

Lake Merritt elegance. Exciting contemporary in prestigious "Lake Royal" w/whiteness + space! Display art.

Caroline Slotemaker-de-Bruine
510-287-8856
510-845-0200

*Open Sun 2-4:30 \$361,000

27 Terallin Ct. Great price on immaculate 2BR/2.5BA end unit townhouse w/upgrades and view.

Vikki Landes
510-339-9290

Montclair Cottage \$360,000

Fixer on lush, private-feeling lot. Fireplace, newish kitchen appliances, solar-heated pool!

VanessaLighthaus@earthlink.net
510-524-2526

North Oakland \$359,000

4BR/2BA, exceptional renovation, charming craftsman, new roof, windows, hwd. flrs, paint.

Penny Schultz
510-834-2010

Coming Soon! \$649,000

Oakland-Rockridge, 2BR, remod. kitchen, h/wf., frpl., great bay view! Spacious h/m. ofc., decks, more.

Logene Butler
510-524-2526

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BERKELEY/ALBANY

Elmwood Fourplex \$839,000

Lower: 3BR, 1.5BA. Upstairs: a 1BR & 2 studios. Two one-car garages & off-street parking.

Lisbeth Hibbard
510-464-4498
510-849-3711

Sunny! Private! Woodsy! \$529,000

Spacious 2+BR, 2BA home w/gorgeous trees. 2 decks, in-law, 2-car garage. Pretty North Berkeley st.

Gaby Olander
510-273-9169
510-849-3711

Totally Redone Spanish/ Mediterranean Home \$375,000

2+BR, 2BA home w/everything new. Wow! Too much to name, a must see.

Mel Smith
510-845-0200
510-464-1139

Large 2BR Albany Condo! \$299,500

Fab. modern 2BR, 2BA in move-in cond. Newer appl., frpl., washer/dryer in unit. Pool/fitness center.

Izumi Tada
510-526-7300
510-849-3711

*Open Sun 1-4 \$280,000

545 Pierce, Albany. Condo with class! 1100+ sq. ft. 2BR, 2BA, frpl., no long hallways, private entrance. 2 pkg. spaces. Must see!

Gaby Olander
510-526-2418
510-849-3711

Terrific Condo! \$276,000

Albany 2BR, 2BA condo w/GG view! Move-in condition! Preferred flr. plan. Gym, pool onsite.

Chris Kaffitz
510-466-5821
510-526-5143

Cozy Berkeley Condo \$250,000

New woodslat dual pane windows, sleeping loft, "+" room, shared backyard, pvt. attic, walk to BART!

VanessaLighthaus@earthlink.net
510-287-2569

Walk to 4th St. Shops! \$209,000

Great value! Sparkling spacious 2BR, 1BA condo in more-in condition.

Izumi Tada
510-526-7300
510-849-3711

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Sweet and Affordable \$225,000

Totally renovated 3BR/1BA in popular Richmond Annex. Close to everything. Move right in!

Catherine Zhang
510-527-9800

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All studios, asking \$558,000. Separate meters w/storage units. Great upside in rents.

Peter & Terr
510-873-0170
510-834-2010

2 Houses in Berkeley \$499,000

2.5BR, 1.5BA, 2 story, 1 bkg. 1 newer. Hwd., frpl., parking. Great invest. 1031 or TIC. New price!

Carnille Rogers
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340 La Salle Avenue, Piedmont

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5 bedrooms, 3+ baths, rumpus, prime location.

Offered at \$1,495,000

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Georgia Cornell

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This gorgeous Hiller Highlands town home boasts of being a 2-story, down slope, end unit, featuring 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, built-ins, hardwood floors, a huge garden patio, and glorious 3 BRIDGE views!

To be offered at \$635,000

36 Windward Hill



Patti Camras

925.258.1123 x208

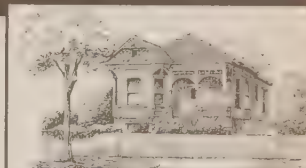
www.patticamras.com



1836 33rd Avenue

Open Sunday, Dec. 2nd, 2-5

\$325,000
Victorian
Fruitvale District
Walk to BART



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New Listing!



This charming traditional home is located on one of the most sought after streets in Claremont. Spacious & elegant rooms, beautiful moldings and gorgeous windows as well as hardwood floors throughout. French doors lead to the deck and private backyard. 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths and tons of potential in the basement.

2954 Russell Street
Berkeley

Price Upon Request



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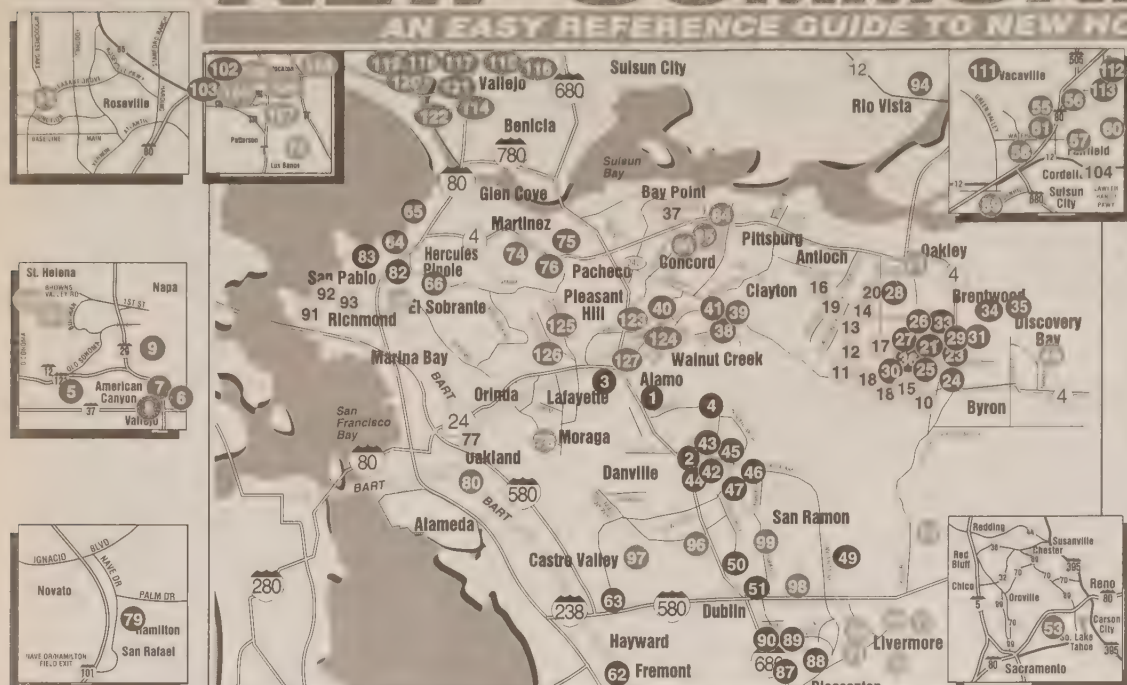
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Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
950 Shorepoint Court #102 100/18A 24	24		\$195,000
Open Sunday Janice Payson 510-814-4840 Harbor Bay Realty			

ALBANY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
878 Hillside Ave Open Sat & Sun Paul Vales, Value Realty 510-451-7317	380/28A	2:30-4:30	\$475,000
709 Key Route Blvd. Wendy Baldorini, Marlin Gardens, 510-827-0200	2nd/24	Sun 1-4	\$359,000
545 Pierce #3105 Chris Kuffz, Prudential CA Realty, 510-526-5143	2nd/24	Sun 2-4	\$276,000

BERKELEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
775 Alvarado Road Patt Canaan, 925-258-1111 2000, Alain Pined Real Estate	480/21/8A	Sun 2-4	\$995,000
1238 M. L. King Dr. Pacific Union Leslie Arant (510) 339-6460	480/28A	2-4:30	\$598,000
2140 Spaulding Ave Mary Casarati, Thermal Properties, 510-848-1950 X 212	2nd/24	Sun 2-4	\$399,000
1032 Delaware St #A North Berkeley Better Homes Mary Jane McConnell (510) 339-5400	380/28A	2-4:30	\$375,000

CASTRO VALLEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2805 Stanton St Barbara Hopper, Prudential, 510-845-0211	2nd/18A	Sun 2-4:30	\$530,000
775 Fairview St Arline Bazer, Berkeley Hills Realty, 510-824-8888	2nd/24	Sun 1:30-4	\$305,000
1310 Channing Way Pacific Union Lori Arant (510) 339-6460	1 + 80/18A	24	\$250,000

CONCORD

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5170 Myrtle Dr. Sandy Chiu, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-8290	4 bd/3 1/2	Sun 1-4	\$699,000
907-914 Estrella Ct Sandy Chiu, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-8290	3-4 Q	Sun 1-4:55/5:55 to 6:00	\$660K
1016 Lila Del Ct Craig Shans, Prudential-Montclair, 510-862-9528	3bd/24	Sun 1-4	\$475,000

EL CERRITO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5322 Rosalind Ave Cynthia Burke, Security Pacific, 510-862-9528	2nd/18A	Sun 1-4	\$274,998

KENSINGTON

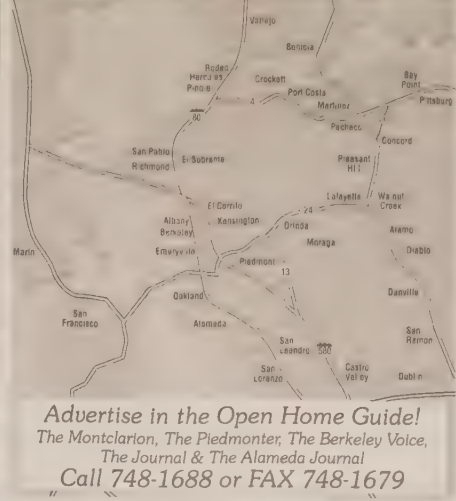
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
212 Yale Ave Richard Mortson, Marlin Gardens, 510-827-0700	2nd/18A	2-4:30	\$549,000

LAFAYETTE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
835 Silver Ct Webb & Bennett Realtors Doris Taboff (925) 943-1187	480/38A	2-4:30	\$975,000
3237 Ridge Road Diane Hamilton, Alain Pined Real Estate 925-788-1944	3bd/24	Sat 1-4	\$499,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
15 Dorothy Pl. Open Sun Bonnie Frutas, 925-997-9062, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	4bd/58A	2-5	\$1,995,000
614 Alvarado Rd Charmaine Pacific Union Leslie Eastday (510) 339-6460	480/38A	2-4:30	\$1,575,000
13494 Campus Dr Pacific Union Kathleen Callahan (510) 339-6460	580/41/8A	2-4:30	\$1,550,000
7070 Northfork Rd Francis Heath (510) 339-6460	580/41/8A	2-4:30	\$1,500,000



OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5891 Buena Vista Ave Held Marchewitz, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-8290	5bd/2.5	2-4:30	\$1,485,000
132 Beechwood Dr The Grubb Co John Karmay 510-339-0400	480/48A	2-4:30	\$1,448,000
7133 Norfolk Rd Pacific Union Dee Knowland (510) 339-6460	480/41/8A	24	\$1,250,000
1650 Grand View Dr Ziggy Baranowski, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-8290	4bd/4.5	2-4:30	\$1,250,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6097 Colton Blvd Pacific Union Teri Carlisle (510) 339-6460	480/38A	2-4:30	\$734,000
5210 Clarewood Dr Pacific Union Gini Erick (510) 339-6460	380/21/8A	2-4:30	\$715,000
5735 Chilton Dr Wells & Bennett Realtors, 510-339-8290	380/28A	2-4:30	\$699,000
815 Paloma Ave Crescent Highlands Pacific Union Michelle Vasey (510) 339-6460	3 - 2 1/2	2-4:30	\$699,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5889 Bristol Dr The Grubb Co Linda McClain 510-339-0400	480/38A	2-4:30	\$695,000
50 Sheridan Rd Pacific Union Nancy Dickey (510) 339-4700	380/28A	2-4:30	\$689,000
6560 Estates Dr Pacific Union Nancy Dickey (510) 339-4700	480/38A	2-4:30	\$675,000
6725 Oakwood Dr Pacific Union Michelle Vasey (510) 339-6460	380/21/8A	2-4:30	\$659,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
30 Windward Hill Piedmont Pines, Open Sunday D.C. Hodges, 510-531-7057, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	380/2.58A	Sun 1-4	\$635,000
1959 Cortez Ave Hadden Chem, Prudential, 510-428-0900	3bd/28A	2-4:30	\$625,000
4647 Harbord Dr Pacific Union Jeffrey Himmel (510) 339-6460	380/21/8A	2-4:30	\$625,000
3940 Harrison St Open Sunday Vicky Friedman (510) 339-8800, 2001, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	4 + 1bd/28A	2-4:30	\$599,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5444 Manila Rockledge Better Homes Caroline Peters (510) 339-8400	380/28A	2-4:30	\$595,000
12710 Brookpark Herb Maner, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-8290	4bd/2.5	2-4:30	\$589,000
24 Waldeck Ct Better Homes Mary Jane McConnell (510) 339-8400	380/28A	2-4:30	\$575,000
5609 Amy Dr Gene Boomer, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-8290	2bd/18A	2-4:30	\$569,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5037 Pierpoint Ave Montclair Coldwell Banker Darcy Bannantine (510) 339-4700	480/21/8A	2-4:30	\$560,000
7129 Saroni Dr The Grubb Co John Karmay 510-339-0400	480/28A	2-4:30	\$549,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6408 Thomas Ave. Rockledge, Open Sunday Mikem Wilson (510) 339-8800, 2000, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	2nd/18A	2-4	\$825,000
5216 Golden Gate Upper Rockledge The Grubb Co Sandra Vogl 510-339-0400	280/11/8A	2-4:30	\$618,000
5747 Grisham Ave. Montclair, Open Sunday Sun Williams, 510-405-4788, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	2nd/24	2-4:30	\$618,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6260 Girvin Thomson, Pined Coldwell Banker July Rankin (510) 339-4700	380/28A	2-4:30	\$498,000
7014 Sayre Ernie Sotom, Prudential, 510-279-9923	2nd/28A	2-4:30	\$488,000
6970 Broadway Terr. Montclair, Open Sun Christian Lower, 510-339-8800, 2000, Century 21 Heritage R. E.	380/18A	2-4:30	\$498,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6146 Johnston Dr Better Homes Jim Schubert (510) 339-4000	380/28A	2-4:30	\$498,000
7010 Saroni Dr David Olsen, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-8290	3 - 2 - 1/2	Sun 2-4:30	\$498,000
335 Hancock Ave Chino Hill Better Homes Teresa Chan (510) 339-4000	380/28A	2-4:30	\$478,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1801 Gouldin Vanessa Thon Smith, Prudential CA Realty, 510-524-2525	4bd/2 - 1/2	Sun 2-4	\$485,000
1100 Mountain Blvd Better Homes Jennifer Arthur (510) 339-8400	380/28A	2-4:30	\$456,000
2411 Burlington Lewin Higgins Coldwell Banker Rachel Baller (510) 339-4700	280/11/8A	2-4:30	\$446,000
5268 Shafter Ave Rockledge Lewin Associates Ron Kries (510) 347-5870	380/28A	2-4:30	\$446,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3930 Carreras Ave Piedmont Ave Lawton Associates Lou Lavett (510) 547-5970	280/28A	2-4:30	\$446,000
5130 Mountain Jesse Huang Pacific Union Joan Hansen (510) 339-6460	380/28A	2-4:30	\$439,000
1480 Escalante Ave Monica Forester, Prudential-Montclair, 510-845-0211	3 - 1/2	2-4:30	\$425,000
2930 Madeline Coldwell Banker Rachel Baller (510) 339-4700	380/21/8A	2-4:30	\$419,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6807 Skyline Blvd Rosalee Marshall, Prudential, 510-855-6166	2bd/1.5	2-4:30	\$399,000
3842 La Cresta Coldwell Banker Jack Brennan (510) 339-4700	280/18A	2-4:30	\$399,000
49 Moss Ave Herman Luna, Prudential, 510-464-1354	2nd/18A	Sun 2-5	\$399,000
3647-49 Laurel Ave Crescent Highlands Pacific Union Ann Nichols (510) 339-6460	180/18A	2-4:30	\$379,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2716 Inyo Ave Mel, Prudential, 510-464-1358	2 + 7/8A	Sun 1-4	\$375,000
9908 Golf Links Sengul Heights Coldwell Banker Nader Davari (510) 339-4700	380/28A	2-4:30	\$369,000
3468 Wyman Wells & Bennett Realtors Kate Phillips (510) 339-7000	480/28A	2-4:30	\$365,000
27 Terahym Ct VWAA, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-8290	2bd/2.5	2-4:30	\$361,000

OAKLAND

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OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3917 Madrone Lower Richmond Heights Coldwell Banker Donna Correy (510) 339-4700	280/18A	2-4:30	\$299,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2823 & 2840 39th Ave Lee Rachel, Prudential, 510-845-0211	1bd/18A	2-4:30	\$290,000
1580 39th Ave Dale Herman, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-8290	2bd/18A	2-4:30	\$229,000
1 Kelson Ct #1A Placerville Better Homes Behid Kasari (510) 339-8400	180/18A	2-4:30	\$198,000
3841 35th Ave Janey Ma, Prudential, 510-845-0211	2bd/1.5	Sun 2-4	\$195,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
398 Adams #201 Gene Boomer, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-8290	1bd/18A	2-4:30	\$188,000

ORINDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
8 Del Mar Court Open Sunday Coldwell Banker Jodyen Kittington 525-253-4601	4bd/2.5	1-4	\$859,000

PIEDMONT

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
340 La Belle Ave Pacific Union Georgia Cornell (510) 339-6460	880/3 - 1/2	2-4:30	\$1,095,000
231 Palm Drive The Grubb Co Nancy Lehtinen 510-339-0400	480/28A	2-4:30	\$875,000
461 Scenic Ave Pacific Union Dick Cohen (510) 339-6460	280/28A	2-4:30	\$875,000
38 Portsmouth Jude Lehman, Prudential, 510-845-0211	2 - 2 1/2	2-4:30	\$848,000

POINT RICHMOND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1803 Cornflower Ct Cynthia Burke, Security Pacific, 510-862-9528	3bd/2.5	Sun 1-4	\$429,998
400 Western Ave Jeri James, Marlin Gardens, 510-559-2902	4bd/28A	Sun 2-5	\$1,195,000

RICHMOND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1803 Cornflower Ct Cynthia Burke, Security Pacific, 510-862-9528	3bd/2.5	Sun 1-4	\$429,998
125 Miley Mtn Gel Stam, Security Pacific, 510-662-9469	3bd/24	Sun 2-4	\$429,950
2215 Sea Shell Dr Open Sunday Sutcliffe & Lindsey, Michael Stuberli 510-748-1129	2bd/24	2-4	\$365,000
5615 Highland Ave Rozita Thornton, Marlin Gardens, 510-559-2902	4 - 1/2	Sun 2-4	\$309,000

SAN LEANDRO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
15198 Discovery Rd Open Sunday, Marina Vela Kathie Ng 925-736-7651, Kane & Associates	480/28A	1-3	\$665,000
18615 Rolando Ave Open SUNDAY Mrs. Cunn 510-814-3836 Harbor Bay Realty	480/2.58A	2-4	\$439,888
42 Dutton Ave Open Sunday Tom Young 510-814-4841 Harbor Bay Realty	280/18A	2-4	\$309,000
211 Garcia Ave Better Homes Earle Shank (510) 339-4000	280/18A	2-4:30	\$289,000

SAN PABLO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2489 Greenwood Gillian Bryant, Prudential CA Realty, 510-524-2525	3bd/18A	Sun 12-4	\$248,888
119 Westgate Circle OPEN SUNDAY: West off Rd. 20, Lynne Kayfetz, 510-227-5212, Kayfetz & Associates	2bd/1.5	Sun 1-4	\$189,000

WALNUT CREEK

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1099 Homestead Wells & Bennett Realtors Marlin Williams (925) 253-4527	380/28A	Sat 1-4	\$480,000

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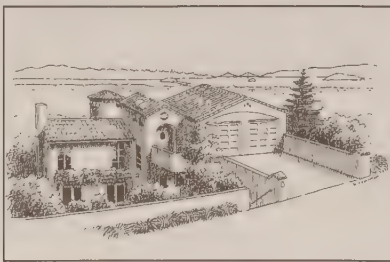
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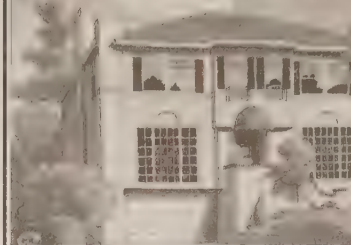
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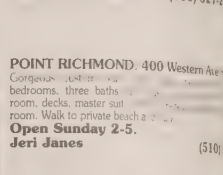
RICHMOND ANNEX. 5815 Highland Ave. \$309,000
Super View! Lovely home on large lot in popular neighborhood. This home features hardwood floors throughout, fireplace, big country kitchen with eating area, redwood deck with lovely hill views.
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KENSINGTON. 212 Yale Ave.
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A1 location. 3 BR, 2 Bath. Very deep lot. Peek-a-boo view of lake. Charm galore. A must see! Vacant. Ready to move in. 355 Hanover Avenue
Teresa Chan (510) 339-4000



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!.....\$375,000
In a quiet 4-unit complex, this remodeled condo is large enough to be a house with almost 1200 square feet, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, deeded parking and a private patio. It's an easy walk to Berkeley's beloved 4th Street shops. Don't miss your chance to own a home in this fabulous neighborhood!
1030 Delaware Street, Unit A, Berkeley
Mary Jane McConville (510) 339-8400

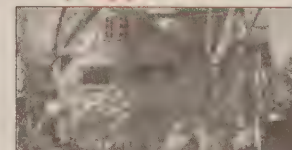


1ST OPEN-1ST TIME BUYER'S DELIGHT!.....\$289,000
Charming 2/1 in San Leandro's North Area. Spacious rooms and delightful details. Formal Dining & eat-in Kitchen, detached garage. Don't delay!
211 Garcia Avenue, San Leandro
Earle Shenk (510) 339-4000

Open Sunday 12/02

SOPHISTICATED STARTER.....\$199,000
With nothing to do but move into this charming condo with fresh paint and new wall to wall carpet. Walk to Piedmont Ave. shops and restaurants. Close to transportation.
1 Kelton Court #1A
Nahid Nassiri (510) 339-8400

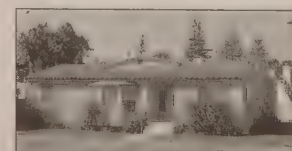
By Appointment



DISTINCTIVE TRADITIONAL PIEDMONT HOME.....\$1,598,000
Opportunity for buyer to finish or upgrade interior with negotiable price. Formal Living & Dining rooms, extra front porch for library or music room, 5+ bedrooms, 3+ baths, lower level could be playrooms or office complex.
Caroline Peters (510) 339-8400

DON'T MISS THIS DREAM HOUSE!.....\$619,950
Quality remodel from top to bottom. 4 Bedrooms, loft, 2 gorgeous baths. Corian kitchen, slate floors, refinished hardwood. Central A/C, 40-year roof. Downtown on a cul-de-sac.
Danville Better Homes (925) 837-2200

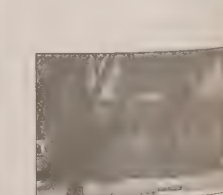
EXCEPTIONAL LIVING!.....\$499,000
A townhouse just like a home.... 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA. Glorious small complex, views of canyon and city. Absolutely perfect! Master B/R suite.
Hal Marcus (510) 339-4000



UPDATED SINGLE LEVEL HOME.....\$375,000
Situated in the heart of San Leandro's North area, this 3/2 offers great room, marble Kitchen and Baths, recessed lighting-The works!
Earle Shenk (510) 339-4000

By Appointment

NEW DUPLEX LISTING!.....\$199,000
Side by side, 1 BR/1 BA each, garage, Allendale Park location. Probate. A good deal.
2630 38th Ave.
Teresa Chan (510) 339-8400



BEST BUY.....\$199,000
Very large 3 Bed, 2 Bath Remodeled. Very cute. Ready to move in. New freeways
A.D. Nassiri

PRICED AT \$30,000 BELOW COMPS!.....\$199,000
2 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath, 1,022 square foot. Car detached garage with garage door opener, spa, club, all appliances included.
Danville Better Homes



ROSSMOOR...COZY, FRIENDLY & CAREFREE!.....\$199,000
Darling 2 Bed., 2 Bath Co-op. Lg. wrap-around newer kitchen and private enclosed patio surrounded by all of the convenience of this resort style senior adult community.
Nahid Nassiri (510) 339-8400

BETTER THAN RENTING!.....\$199,000
Best value in the area. Deep lot, 3+1/2 BA. location. Needs TLC. Low pest. Drive. Coolidge
Teresa Chan

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Arts

BILL MANN
U.S. media notes

ABC trio make networks' best dramas

The best drama on network television right now? ABC's "West Wing" and "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit." Both have won Emmy awards.

The best drama going is ac- cording to producer Dick Wolf's "Law & Order." I hadn't seen his third and fourth seasons, but "Law and Order: Criminal Intent" — until recently, the show airs Sunday nights at 9 on KRON. I was impressed at its high quality, al- though I probably shouldn't have been.

Even a TV critic can only watch so much tube, and I haven't watched any "L&O's" yet. I also caught this episode of the original, "Law & Order," which airs Wednesdays at 10. It was as good as ever. The sophomore series "L&O: Special Victims Unit," airs Fri- days at 10 on NBC; it's a superior show.

The three series are indis- cussible from one another in terms of quality they demonstrate in their writing and casting; only their focuses are slightly different. All use cops-then-prosecutors for- mats, with "Criminal In- tent" concentrating more on sex (often sex) crimes and prosecution.

I'm generally not big on cop shows, but watching episodes of this week's "Law & Or- der" episodes made me realize I've been missing shows of an unusually high quality for TV. Older Becky Smith says she misses an episode of any of "Criminal Intent" is spaced than the other

will maintain that HBO's "The Sopranos," which won't end its fourth season until next year, is still, hands-down, the best drama on TV — and may be the best ever.

But, on network TV, it just can't get any better than "L&O" these days. And, re- markably and surprisingly, the three shows pull big rat- ings for NBC — proving that quality and quantity do occa- sionally coincide.

I maintain this level of quality in the casting, writing and performance of any show is unusual. But to do it in three shows as Wolf does, is little short of remarkable. I'd like to see from regular Hills readers what they agree that these three shows are the best dramas on TV right now?

I try not to watch any more network TV than is prudent necessary, but I now find myself wishing I'd started watching "Law & Order" years ago.

Radio Media Notes: There have been a lot of nervous peo- ple in sales and otherwise) at KTVU's Jack London studios this week. They're hoping that the Coli- umbo will sell out so Channel 2 will broadcast the Raiders-Car- olina game here this Sunday. KTVU gets to sell thousands of copies of local "avails" (com- mercials) for Fox network shows. But if there's no game, there are no local ads to run. When the San Diego game was blacked out, I thought I might circumvent the blackout and pick it up on a local CBS affiliate, KQVR-TV, Channel 13. But that Sacra- mento station falls within the KTVU's 100-mile black- out window.

And ESPN.com columnist Bill Jackson, who rates the top 10 teams weekly, had the Raiders as number two this week on Sunday (behind the Rams). But when St. Louis lost Monday night, he dropped the Raiders to No. 3. Did the Raiders, who share the best record in the NFL, move up to the top



IN THE PATRIOTIC thriller "Behind Enemy Lines," Owen Wilson stars as an American navigator whose plane is shot down over Bosnia during a reconnaissance mission.

'Enemy Lines' more excitement than depth

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

The military thriller "Behind Enemy Lines" is engaging junk, replete with plenty of flag-wav- ing, one-dimensional villains and big-bang payoffs that will delight action movie fans.

The setting is Bosnia; the time could be the recent past, the present or the future. NATO is busily brokering a cease-fire between the Bosnians and Serbs, while an American aircraft carrier kills time trolling the Adriatic.

Aboard the ship is navigator Chris Burnett (Owen Wilson), bored to tears with doing nothing while his pilot pal Stackhouse (Gabriel Macht) flies their F-18 on reconnaissance missions over the Bosnian forests and moun- tains. The cheesy script lets us know that he longs for the days when you could punch a Nazi in

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Behind Enemy Lines"
■ **STARRING:** Owen Wilson, Gene Hackman, Joaquim de Almeida, David Keith
■ **RATING:** PG-13 (war violence and some language)
■ **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 55 minutes
■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters
■ **GRADE:** C+

the nose on the beaches of Nor- mandy.

So Burnett has even handed in his two-weeks' notice to his commanding officer, Admiral Leslie Reigart (Gene Hackman, better than the material at hand, as usual). As punishment, he and Stackhouse are sent out on Christmas Eve on a routine mis-

sion. The flying duo accidentally capture photos of a mass grave, evidence of ethnic cleansing, and are shot down by Serbs. Burnett survives and becomes bait for a vast number of Serbs who want to keep the graves secret. Big meanie military honcho Piquet (Joaquim de Almeida) refuses to let Reigart rescue him because it might upset the peace process.

An action movie isn't the ideal venue for enjoying the witty Owen Wilson ("Meet the Parents," "Zoolander") at work, but when you try to imagine another actor in this part, one who takes him- self too seriously — like, say, a young Alec Baldwin — then you realize what an asset Wilson is. He's as cocky as Tom Cruise in "Top Gun," but he's also capable of conveying vulnerability and winning our sympathy. Burnett fits our current patriotic bill, the kind of American we like to imag-

ine representing us: sassy but smart, resourceful, loyal, deter- mined to do right, yet well-aware of and even cynical about our mili- tary past; a post-Vietnam thinker.

Even if you got bored during "Behind Enemy Lines," which is unlikely, you could easily while away the hours gazing at Wil- son's knobby nose. It's a trans- fixing bit of physiognomy. How many times has it been broken? And how did this delightful but physically imperfect Texan man- age, against all odds, to slip into the ranks of leading men? He's a lesson in the power of charisma.

Director John Moore was plucked from the ranks of com- mercial directors by the film's producers after they caught a spot he did for a Sega video game. His roots show, both in his

See ENEMY, Page C5

'Fat Girl' inflicts pain on audience, characters

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

Like her earlier pornographic mess, "Romance," French direc- tor Catherine Breillat's new film "Fat Girl," a searing portrait of sexuality, sisterhood and adoles- cence, is calculated to outrage.

But whereas "Romance" was flat-out nasty and without redem- ption, a movie that would have been labeled utterly misog- ynistic had it been made by a

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Fat Girl"
■ **STARRING:** Anais Reboux, Roxane Mesquida, Arsinee Khan- jian
■ **RATING:** NR
■ **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 23 minutes
■ **WHERE:** Opens today at the Shattuck, Berkeley, and the Lu- miera, S.F.
■ **GRADE:** C+

See FAT GIRL, Page C5



CRUEL INTENTIONS? Anais Reboux plays Anais, left, and Roxane Mesquida is Elena in the disturbing "Fat Girl."



ROXANA ORTEGA as Helen in the Shotgun Players production of "There Will Be No Trojan War"

Get in on the downtown arts scene at Sunday's open house in Berkeley

Looking for theater fun for the whole family and free to boot? Look no farther than Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. That's when the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre throws open the doors of its new home in the Nevo Education Center.

The center is located to next door to the Rep's two theaters in the historic Golden Sheaf Bakery, dating back to 1905. It becomes a part of downtown Berkeley's growing cultural cluster, thanks to a generous gift from local developer Avi Nevo. The address is 2071 Ad- dition St. between Shattuck Ave- nue and Milvia Street.

The new theater school of- fers classes and programs for both youths — grades three and up — and adults. Classes for the winter session begin in January. Call 510-647-2972 for more information or course schedules.

Sunday's open house sounds like fun. Tour the build- ing. Meet the faculty. Partici- pate in classes.

Who knows? You might be rubbing shoulders with some of tomorrow's stars; better yet, you or your young ones can look back some day and say: "It all started on a Sunday



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

10 days after Thanksgiving when we visited the Rep's Nevo Education Center. The rest is theater history. Hey, it never hurts to dream!

'TIGER' BY ANOTHER NAME: While the Rep is throwing open the doors Sun- day, Shotgun Players starts closing the door of its 2001 sea- son with previews Thursday and Friday and the opening Saturday of Jean Giraudoux's "There Will Be No Trojan War."

If the title furrows your brow, think "Tiger at the Gates." That was the name Christopher Fry gave to his 1955 adaptation of the French playwright's original 1935 play.

Shotgun's artistic director, Patrick Dooley, who is direct- ing this production, opted for a version of the original which was something like "The Tro- jan War Will Not Happen."

But enough of this picky-

EVENTS

POPULAR MUSIC

Ashkenaz — Steve Lucky and The Rhumba Bums, Ms. Carmen Getit, Nov. 30, 9:30 p.m. \$11.
Kotoja, West African Highlife Band, Nigerian Bros., Kasumi Bare, Dec. 1, 8 p.m. \$13.
1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-525-5054 or www.ashkenaz.com

Berkeley Chamber Performances — Paula West, Dec. 4, 8 p.m. With Kan Muir, piano and John Wiitala, bass.
\$18 general; \$15 students and se- niors. The Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5211

Blake's On Telegraph — Felonius, Nov. 30, Hip-hop. \$6.
Nobody From Ipanema, Dec. 1. \$7
Len Patterson Trio, Dec. 2. \$3
All Star Jam, Dec. 3. Featuring The Steve Gannon Band and MZ. Dec. 4.
Funklogics, Suite 304, Dec. 4. \$3
Electronica with Ascension, Dec. 6. \$5.
Orquesta D' Soul, Songo, Dec. 7. \$5.
Motherbug, Roux, Dec. 8. \$5.
For ages 18 and up. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886.

Cafe Eclectica — BeastFest. She Mob, Wire Graffiti, Breast, Hon- eyshot, Run for Cover Lovers, Nov. 30, 6 p.m.
\$6. 1309 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-527-2344.

Cato's Ale House — Call for cur- rent schedule.
Free. Shows at 6 p.m. 3891 Pied- mont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-3349 or www.mrcato.com

Club Muse — BeastFest Calamity and Main, Darling Clementines, The Bootcuts, Nov. 30, 9:30 p.m. \$8.
Naked Barbies, Penelope Houston Dec. 1, 9:30 p.m. \$8.
For age 21 and over. 856 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-2878.

"Community Concert Series" — through March. "Quality Music Close to Home" is the theme for Neighborhood Energy's 23rd sea- son of the Community Concert Series. All shows start at 8 p.m.
The Tommy Castro Band, Nov. 30 Blues guitar.
\$20. (925) 229-2710 or www.Com- munityConcerts.com

Downtown — Hal Stein Quartet, Dec. 1
Mel Martin, Dec. 7.
Yoshi Marshall, Dec. 8.
Will Bernard, piano, Tuesdays.
Dave Matthews, piano, Wednes- days.
Macy Blackman, piano, Thursdays. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810

Eli's Mile High Club — Scott Dun- can, Nov. 30.
J.J. Maloe, Dec. 1.
Call for prices. Doors open at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. 3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oak- land. 510-655-6661.

Freight And Salvage — Odile Lavault and The Baguette Quar- tette, Nov. 30. \$16.50 to \$17.50.
Geoff Muldaur, Fritz Richmond, Dec. 1. \$17.50 to \$18.50.
Kaila Flexer's Fieldharmonik, Dec. 2. \$15.50 to \$16.50.
Avalon Blues, Dec. 5. Featuring Per- tase, Dave Alvin and Bill Mor-

See EVENTS, Page C6

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday November 30

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2

2129 Center Street, Berkeley 510-843-3456
 • **Act 1 and 2** (Not Rated) 6:45, 9:45
 • **The Man Who Wasn't There** (R) 7, 9:30.

Albany Twin

1115 Solano Ave. Albany 510-843-3456
 • **The Affair of the Necklace** (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7, 9:45
 • **Amelie** (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30.

California Theatre

2113 Kirtland St., Berkeley 510-843-3456
 • Closed for renovation

Century 16 Bayfair Mall

350 Bayfair Mall, San Leandro 510-278-5694
 • **13 Ghosts** (R) 10:15
 • **Behind Enemy Lines** (PG-13) 11:30, 12:15, 1:50, 2:45, 5:20, 8, 9:20, 10:25
 • **Black Knight** (PG-13) 12:55, 3:20, 4:20, 5:25, 6:55, 7:55, 10:20.

• **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (PG) 11:45, 12:20, 1:05, 1:35, 2:25, 3:05, 3:40, 4:25, 4:55, 5:40, 6:25, 7, 7:45, 8:15, 9, 9:45, 10:20.

• **Monsters, Inc.** (G) 11:50, 12:45, 2, 3, 15, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 10, 8, 9:15
 • **The One** (PG-13) 11:35, 1:45, 3:50, 6, 8:05
 • **Out Cold** (PG-13) 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45

• **Shallow Hal** (PG-13) 11:55, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10

• **Spy Game** (R) 11:30, 1, 2:15, 3:45, 5:05, 6:50, 7:50, 9:30, 10:30

• **Texas Rangers** (PG-13) 12, 2:20, 4:35, 7:05, 9:10
 • **The Wash** (R) 7:40, 10:10.

Century 25 Union City at Union Landing

3210 Alvarado Blvd., Union City 510-487-9593
 • **13 Ghosts** (R) 11:55, 2:15, 4:35, 7:10, 9:30, 11:45

• **The Affair of the Necklace** (R) 11:25, 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10:25

• **Behind Enemy Lines** (PG-13) 11:15, 12:15, 1:45, 2:55, 4:15, 5:25, 6:50, 8:15, 9:20, 10:45, 11:50

• **Black Knight** (PG-13) 12, 12:40, 1:40, 2:25, 3, 4, 4:45, 5:25, 6:45, 7:40, 8:25, 9:10, 10, 10:45, 11:30, 12:10

• **Domestic Disturbance** (PG-13) 12:45, 5:15, 5:40, 8, 10:25

• **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (PG) 11:15, 11:45, 12:20, 12:55, 1:30, 2, 2:35, 3:05, 3:40, 4:10, 4:50, 5:20, 5:55, 6:25, 7, 7:35, 8:10, 8:40, 9:15, 9:45, 10:20, 10:55, 11:30

• **Monsters, Inc.** (G) 11:30, 12:10, 1, 1:50, 2:45, 3:30, 4:10, 5:05, 5:50, 6:55, 7:30, 9:15, 9:55, 11:35, 12:10

• **The One** (PG-13) 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8, 10:10, 12:10

• **Out Cold** (PG-13) 11:20, 12:30, 2:50, 5, 7:15, 9:35, 12

• **Serendipity** (PG-13) 11:30

• **Shallow Hal** (PG-13) 11:50, 2:30, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30

• **Spy Game** (R) 12:05, 1:10, 1:55, 3, 4:05, 4:55, 6, 7, 7:50, 8:50, 9:55, 10:40, 11:45

• **Texas Rangers** (PG-13) 11:35, 1:55, 4:20, 7:05, 9:25, 11:50

• **Training Day** (R) 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40

• **The Wash** (R) 8:10, 10:25

Chabot Cinema

2653 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 510-582-2555
 • Call theatre for movies and times.

Chabot Space & Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300
 • **Mysteries of Egypt** (Not Rated) 1, 7:30
 • **The Living Sea** (Not Rated) 11:30, 3:30, 8:30
 • **To Be An Astronaut** (Not Rated) 10:30.

Elmwood 3

2825 College Ave., Berkeley 510-849-0530
 • **The Closet** (R) 7:45

• **Focus** (PG-13) 9, 9:15

• **Serendipity** (PG-13) 7:20

• **Tape** (R) 6, 9:30

• **Tell Me Something** (Not Rated) 4:30, 7, 9:25.

Fine Arts Cinema

2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-1143
 • **Days of Heaven** (Not Rated) 7:30

• **Streethear** (Le Coucou Au Poin) (NR) 9:20

Renaissance Grand Lake Theatre

3250 Grand Avenue Oakland 510-452-3556
 • **Behind Enemy Lines** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35

• **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (PG) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10

• **Monsters, Inc.** (G) 12, 2, 4, 6:15, 8:15, 10:10

• **Spy Game** (R) 12:15, 3, 6:30, 9:15.

Jack London Cinema

100 Washington, Oakland 510-433-1320
 • **Behind Enemy Lines** (PG-13) 11:10, 11:50, 1:45, 2:30, 4:20, 5:05, 7:10, 7:45, 9:50, 10:30

• **Black Knight** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:35, 5, 7:30, 10

• **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (PG) 11, 12, 11:10, 2:20, 3:30, 4:35, 5:45, 7, 8, 9:10, 10:15

• **Monsters, Inc.** (G) 10:50, 1:20, 3:40, 6, 8:20, 10:40

• **Sideways of New York** (R) 11:15, 1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10

• **Spy Game** (R) 11:05, 2, 4:55, 7:50, 10:45

• **The Wash** (R) 8, 10:20.

Hayward 9

19901 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 510-785-8000
 • **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (PG) 11, 11:30, 12, 12:30, 2:45, 3:15, 3:45, 4:15, 5:30, 7, 7:30, 8, 10, 10:30

• **Heist** (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:40, 7:40, 10

• **Life As a House** (R) 12:40, 4

• **Monsters, Inc.** (G) 11:20, 12:10, 2:10, 2:40, 4:30, 5:10, 7:10, 7:45, 9:40, 10:10

• **The One** (PG-13) 7:20, 9:50

• **Out Cold** (PG-13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20

Naz 8 Cinemas

39400 Argonaut Way, Fremont 510-797-2000

• **ABCD** (Not Rated) 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

• **Asoko** (R) 5, 9

• **Ehsaas** (Not Rated) 5, 7, 9, 11

• **Nandha** 7, 9, 11

• **Renaissance Oaks Theatre**

1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 510-526-1836

• **Behind Enemy Lines** (PG-13) 7, 9:20

• **Heist** (R) 7:30

• **Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation** (Not Rated) 6, 9:45

Piedmont Theatre

4186 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-843-3456
 • **The Affair of the Necklace** (R) 1, 4, 6:45, 9:15

• **Amelie** (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:30

• **The Man Who Wasn't There** (R) 1:15, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-3456
 • **Bread and Tulips** (PG-13) 2, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50

• **Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition** (G) 2:25, 4:55, 7:25

• **Fat Girl** (Not Rated) 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:55

• **K-Pax** (PG-13) 1:55, 4:25, 7, 9:35

• **Life As a House** (R) 1:35, 4:15, 6:55, 9:45

• **Monsters, Inc.** (G) 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8, 10:10

• **Mulholland Drive** (R) 9:30

• **Novocaine** (R) 9:40

• **Out Cold** (PG-13) 1:30, 3:45, 6:30, 8:45

• **Second Skin** (R) 2:15, 4:40, 7:05

• **Sideways of New York** (R) 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55

• **Waking Life** (R) 1:50, 4:20, 6:55, 9:25

United Artists Berkeley

2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1487
 • **Black Knight** 11:15, 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05

• **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (PG) 12, 1:30, 5, 7, 8:15, 11, 2:30, 5:55, 9:30

• **Shallow Hal** (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 7, 9:45

• **Spy Game** (R) 12, 3:15, 7:05, 10:30

• **Texas Rangers** 11:30, 2:05, 4:45, 7:30, 10

• **The Wash** (R) 3:30, 10:15

United Artists Emery Bay 10

6330 Christie, Emeryville 510-420-0107
 • **Behind Enemy Lines** 11:15, 2, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15, 12:30

• **Black Knight** 10:45, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50, 12:15

• **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (PG) 10:15, 11, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 4, 5, 5:55, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:45, 12

• **Monsters, Inc.** (G) 10:30, 11:30, 12:45, 2, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7, 9:30

• **The One** (PG-13) 8, 10:15

• **Shallow Hal** (PG-13) 11, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45

• **Spy Game** (R) 10:20, 1:10, 4, 7, 10, 12:30

• **Texas Rangers** 10:45, 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10, 12:15

United Artists Hayward 6

24800 Hesperian, Hayward 510-786-3000
 • **Behind Enemy Lines** 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

• **Black Knight** 12:15, 2:30, 3:30, 4:45, 7, 8, 9:15

• **Domestic Disturbance** 12:35, 2:50, 5, 7:15, 9:30

• **Shallow Hal** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10

• **Spy Game** (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10

• **The Wash** (R) 1, 5:30, 10:15

Central Contra Costa

• **Renaissance Orinda Theatre**

4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-0600
 • **Behind Enemy Lines** (PG-13) 6:30, 9

• **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (PG) 7, 10

• **Monsters, Inc.** (G) 6, 8:15, 10:10

Renaissance Park Theatre

3519 Golden Gate Way., Lafayette 925-283-7997
 • **Amelie** (R) 7, 9:35

Rheem Theatre

350 Park St., Moraga 925-968-3411
 • **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (PG) 4, 7:45

• **Heist** (R) 7:20

• **Life As a House** (R) 4:40, 9:30

• **Shallow Hal** (PG-13) 4:30, 7:10, 9:20

• **Spy Game** (R) 4:10, 7, 9:40

East Contra Costa

• **Brenden Pittsburg 16**

4085 Century Blvd., Pittsburg 925-708-1222
 • **Behind Enemy Lines** (PG-13) 11:40, 12:40, 2:10, 3:10, 4:40, 5:40, 7:10, 8, 9:30, 10:30

• **Black Knight** (PG-13) 11, 12:30, 3, 5:20, 8:20, 10:20

• **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (PG) 11:20, 12:10, 1, 1:30, 2, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5, 5:30, 6:20, 7, 8, 8:30, 9, 9:50

• **Monsters, Inc.** (G) 11:10, 12, 1:50, 2:30, 4:20, 5, 6:50, 7:30, 9:20

• **Out Cold** (PG-13) 1:20, 4, 6:30, 9:10

• **Serendipity** (PG-13) 10

• **Shallow Hal** (PG-13) 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40

• **Spy Game** (R) 11:30, 1:10, 2:50, 4:10, 5:50, 7:20, 8:50, 10:10

• **Texas Rangers** (PG-13) 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10

• **The Wash** (R) 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10

Delta Cinemas

641 1st St., Brentwood 925-516-0777
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Regal Deer Valley 16

4204 Lone Tree Way, Antioch 925-757-2111
 • **13 Ghosts** (R) 7:30, 9:55

• **Behind Enemy Lines** (PG-13) 12, 1:15, 2:25, 4, 5:05, 7:20, 8:05, 10:05, 10:40

• **Black Knight** 12:25, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 9:50

• **Domestic Disturbance** (PG-13) 12:05, 2:30, 5, 7:10, 9:25

• **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (PG) 12, 12:30, 1, 1:30, 3:15, 3:45, 4:15, 4:45, 6:30, 7, 8, 9:45, 10:15

• **Heist** (R) 6:05, 9:30

• **Monsters, Inc.** (G) 12:05, 12:30, 1, 2:20, 2:50, 3:30, 4:40, 5:15, 5:45, 7:10, 7:40, 10

• **Out Cold** (PG-13) 12:25, 3, 5:20, 7:50, 10

• **Serendipity** (PG-13) 9:40

• **Shallow Hal** (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 7:55, 10:25

• **Spy Game** (R) 12:50, 1:20, 4, 4:30, 7:15, 7:45, 10:15, 10:35

• **Texas Rangers** 12:20, 2:35, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55

• **West Contra Costa**

• **Century Pinole 10**

1491 Fitzgerald Drive, Pinole 510-222-8030

• **13 Ghosts** (R) 3:20, 5:15, 7:10, 9:15

• **Banlite** (PG-13) 4:20, 9:25

• **Bones** (R) 2, 7:05

Reviews

FROM PAGE C4

another (the diving board) to reassure them both of her affections. She's inflamed with sexual feelings, with no outlet in sight.

Breillat fetishizes the girl's fat, reveling in the plumpness of her breasts and the way her belly protrudes like a shelf when she's in her bathing suit. We get a lot of deliberately cruel close-ups of Anais mechanically stuffing food into her mouth, as if eating were an obligation, or a way to taunt her distant, disgusted father (Roman Goupil) and mother (Arsienne Khanjian) rather than a pleasure. At one point, we even see her littered with crumbs, bathed in the refuse of her excess. Obstinately, she lets them sit there. This is me, she's saying, gross me: Take it or leave it.

What distinguishes Anais from all the forlorn ugly stepisters of cinema history, and makes her fascinating to watch, is that she doesn't want to be like Elena. The isolation that comes with her layers of fat has given her a wisdom far beyond the nymphets', and she's strangely self-confident. Even when she's in pain, crying, there's an edge to what she's conveying. She seems to be saying, to everyone, "Just you wait until you see who I really am. You may not want me, but someone will."

What Breillat seems to want is for us to look at this girl and think, isn't she appalling? And how dare she be so sexual, when society gives her no right to be such? She aims to make us cringe at the thought of society's ugly judgments and then to scold us all, dismissing our compassion as insignificant. You get the sense that she wants us to pick sides, even though Elena and Anais are equally difficult to like and yet impossible not to pity because of their raw humanity. Elena is just a girl, beneath that beauty. So is Anais, beneath that fat. Who wants to pick sides between these two? It hardly seems right.

Yet Breillat does pick sides, and she does so brutally, resorting to a blend of revenge and rape fantasy in the film's closing moments, a scene so harrowing it will rock all but the sturdiest of moviegoers. She's protected herself from some criticism, because no critic is going to want to reveal precisely what happens—and yet, without doing so, it's impossible to really get at what makes this movie ultimately so despicable. Suffice it to say that humanity takes a back seat to hatred, and you are left with a sense of wonder at Breillat's need to punish and inflict pain on both her characters and her audience.

Again, the story asks us to accept the implausible notion that Tracker can and will turn up absolutely everywhere Burnett goes; he's a cross between a cardboard villain and a foxhound.

Logicians will be troubled by the way the chase swings wildly across such varied terrain. One minute Burnett is high on a craggy peak, the next he's down running through deep forest, then up again to impossible heights, then back to the forest. You get the impression that he's covered about 60 miles on foot in the course of 12 hours. Still, there's little doubt that this bit of red, white and blue propaganda will ultimately involve the good admiral eventually putting his career on the line to save Burnett.

Unfortunately, "Behind Enemy Lines" never asks us to question the geopolitical position our own military might puts us in, or to dwell on the actual Bosnian conflict (for that, look for the excellent Bosnian-made "No Man's Land" next month). It's just a convenient setting to show off our fighting spirit. That's not to say it's not a fun ride, but given that we're at war right now in a far-off land, there's something a little uneasy about this whole enterprise.

Of course, if you're not limited to a buck-a-year to honor the spirit of 42, Flynn suggests archly. "You could write a check for \$142 or \$420."

A CRACKLING HARD NUT: A pre-Christmas sugarpum of a treat opens next week when Cal Performances presents "The Hard Nut," the Mark Morris Dance Group's acclaimed take on the holiday "Nutcracker" ballet.

Cal Performance director Robert Cole will conduct members of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra and the UC Berkeley Women's Choral in Tchaikovsky's complete "Nutcracker" ballet score.

"The Hard Nut" plays at 8 p.m. next Friday in Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus; at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 3 p.m. Sunday. The show repeats Dec. 13 through Dec. 16. Tickets are \$28, \$38 and \$52 available through the Cal Performances Box Office in Zellerbach Hall; by phone at 510-642-9988; at Tickets.com, and at the door.

"FOCUS": An expressionistic adaptation of Arthur Miller's 1945 novel on anti-Semitism and demagoguery. This period piece, set in Brooklyn near the end of WWII, conveys an eerie claustrophobia. Father Chivalini (Kenneth Welsh) is a radio commentator who uses coded anti-Semitic language to blame the Jews for World War II. The arrival of a Jewish storekeeper has set tempers on edge, and there is a movement to boycott his newsstand. William H. Macy plays a mild-mannered milquetoast who remains on the sidelines, and Laura Dern plays a sexy, provocative-looking woman whom he initially snubs for her Jewish appearance. The two marry, and the neighborhood's attitude toward them grows frosty. The surreal style, with its film-noir camerawork, turns the story into a fable about fear and nonconformity. Yet despite its buildup of suspense, the film's ending feels a bit tepid. — S. Holden. (PG-13: violence and sexual situations.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. **B**

POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE: Director Chris Columbus has done what fans of J. K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books prayed he'd do, bringing the story of the orphaned 11-year-old wizard to life exactly as we all envisioned it. There are flaws here and there, mistakes that often go hand in hand with "big" movies—way too much music, a nip and a tuck here and there in a story that sprawled magnificently on the page, and computer work that occasionally shows the limitations of movie magic. But the three young stars far exceed expectations, and the adult cast is just right. How you'll feel about this picture if you're not already in Harry's thrall is an entirely different question, one we're not ashamed to admit we can't answer. — M. Pols. (PG: some scary moments and mild language.) 2 hours, 32 minutes. **A-**

"FROM HELL": The Hughes brothers ("Menace II Society") rather suspenseless take on the Jack the Ripper tale, adapted from Alan Moore's popular 1999 graphic novel, demands complete audience detachment. We have to relinquish our curiosity about the mystery of the Ripper and accept the movie's crazy conspiracy theory, which links the crime to the highest ranks of British government. We also have to endure close-ups of throat cuttings and accept the silly notion of a love story blooming among the bodies between Ripper's next intended victim (Heather Graham) and the detective in charge of the case (Johnny Depp).

Depp is divine as usual, and the movie looks cool, but that's about it. — M. Pols. (R: strong violence/gore, sexuality, language and drug content.) 2 hours, 2 minutes. **C**

"HEIST": David Mamet can dangerously close to going mainstream in this caper about a team of thieves pulling one last job before retirement. How many times are we going to have to sit through this tired old plot? Mamet jizzes it up with his peculiar mannered dialogue and a great cast, but it's still ultimately forgettable stuff. Gene Hackman gives a clever, satisfying performance, proving he's still got it, and look for strong supporting work from the wonderful Ricky Jay and Delroy Lindo. But it's time for Mamet to stop casting his wife, Rebecca Pidgeon, who plays Hackman's sexy wife, in every movie he makes. All she does is parrot Mamet-speak. — M. Pols. (R: language and some violence.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. **B-**

"INTIMACY": This one-of-a-kind melodrama that borrows from "Last Tango in Paris" and the British soap opera "EastEnders" is London-set and soddens with misery. If the film does anything well, it portrays desperation in many different forms. Every Wednesday, lovers Jay (Mark Rylance) and Claire (Kerry Fox) wordlessly go to each other. Their sex isn't lyrical or lofty—there's a sad, real neediness in their couplings. When Jay tries to find something better or deeper—intimacy—he loses. At times the film seems overly literary and its premise too obvious. You'll be hard pressed to forget it, though. — E. Mitchell. (NR) 1 hour, 59 minutes. **B**

"IRON MONKEY": A new soundtrack and gigantic subtitles revive this 1993 Hong Kong cult classic directed by Yuen Wo-Ping ("The Matrix" choreographer). A "masked avenger" named Iron Monkey (Robin Hood for your comparative literature types) robs from corrupt officials and gives to poor refugees in late-19th-century Chekiang. A government sweep happens to pull in visiting folk hero Wong Kei Ying (Donnie Yen) and son Wong Fei Hung (played by an amazing girl, Sze-Man Tsang). Dad is forced to play bounty hunter while his son is held captive. Good guys can't fight one another for long, so a real bad guy is tossed in. The film is no epic, but there's gale-storm action and broad comedy elevated by flabbergasting martial arts, and how can one resist a climactic fight atop flaming poles? — V. Chan. (PG-13: martial arts action, violence and brief sexuality.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. **B**

"K-PAX": A little bit "Cocoon," a little bit "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and lot of Kevin Spacey being smug. He plays Prot, a wise but innocent man who claims to be an extraterrestrial from the planet K-Pax. He's so convincing that his shrink at the mental hospital, a classic movie workaholic played by the ever-able Jeff Bridges, almost believes him. The other patients totally buy it and start eagerly vying for a one-way passage back to K-Pax. Meanwhile, in

the movie's most offensive moments, Prot starts helping them cure themselves, as if mental illness is something you can just get over. Director Iain Softley ("Wings of the Dove") does a nice job maintaining the is-he-or-isn't-he suspense, but the picture's attempts to be profound are embarrassing. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sequence of violent images, brief language and sensuality.) 2 hours, 5 minutes. **C-**

"LIFE AS A HOUSE": There's a hormone that kicks in after childbirth that makes a woman forget just how awful it was, reproduction's form of self-defense. Kevin Kline serves the same function in this mawkish movie about a dying man who embarks on an ambitious plan to build his dream house and regain the love of his wayward teen-age son (Hayden Christensen, the future Mr. Vader). Kline's performance is so restrained and moving that it almost saves the movie. But ultimately, director Irwin Winkler turns this into "American Beauty Lite," with a Hallmark ending. — M. Pols. (R: language, sexuality and drug use.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. **B-**

"THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE": Ethan and Joel Coen's chilly black-and-white homage to film noir plays out like a creative lark, the kind of experimentation artists indulge in once the bills are paid. Billy Bob Thornton is fascinating to watch as a late 1940s barber who makes the mistake of blackmailing his wife's lover (James Gandolfini) to get the capital to invest in a dry cleaning business. With its fantastically cool look and dry wit, this is distinctly Coen brothers fare, but if you compare it to their best work, it feels more like an itch the brothers needed to scratch than, say, a "Fargo." Of course, with them, even an itch is going to be entertaining. — M. Pols. (R: a scene of violence.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. **B**

"MONSTERS, INC.": Thanks to the rich imaginations at the Emeryville-based animation house Pixar, small children everywhere will soon have a new perspective on the monsters they fear may lurk under their beds. The genius premise here is that yes, of course monsters are real, but vulnerable. They're terrified of children, but they continue to frighten them because back in monsterland, scream power is harnessed and used as the main source of energy. The ebbing innocence of the world's children has created an energy crisis. This is a wonderful, funny story for the whole family, rich with superior animation and major heart. Voiced by John Goodman and Billy Crystal, among others. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 32 minutes. **A-**

"MOULIN ROUGE": Director Baz Luhrmann's relentless musical drama exudes so much energy that it throws up what amounts to a nearly impenetrable force field around itself. There's certainly something endearing about how much effort he and his co-stars, Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor, playing star-crossed lovers in turn-of-the-century Paris, have put into trying to woo us. Kidman is spectacular; she's pure courage. But despite flashes of true creativity, some inspired musical choices and a consistently startling opulence, the movie fails. It's just too much: gaping mouths, failing limbs, wildly incorrect scenes that make it impossible to focus. Luhrmann is in such a hurry to show us everything in his toy chest that there isn't time to savor anything. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexuality.) 2 hours. **B-**

"MULHOLLAND DR.": At the end of this mind-trip, all you can do is laugh. David Lynch has once again led us on a merry dance through a minefield littered with freaks, apple-pie moments we can't trust, terrifying weirdoes and puzzling, possibly pointless scenes. A beautiful amnesiac and a cheery, innocent ingenue set out to solve a mystery. Then they become different people. Chances are it's all a dream, or at least half a dream. Makes "Memento" look easy to understand. Lynch probably won't win himself any new fans with this one, but old ones will enjoy this excursion into his creative mind. — M. Pols. (R: violence, language and some strong sexuality.) 2 hours, 26 minutes. **B+**

"NOVOCAINE": Models itself after movies like "Something Wild" or "After Hours," where a likable guy makes some bad decisions, generally involving a woman, and finds himself in a downward spiral that's supposed to ultimately be a liberating experience. Steve Martin plays dentist Frank Sangster, whose lust for a sexy drug addict (Helena Bonham-Carter) jeopardizes his job and his relationship with his coolly efficient dental hygienist (a very funny Laura Dern). There are clever comic characterizations in this one, including a great cameo by Kevin Bacon, but this melange of other directors' styles, from David Lynch to "Election's" Alexander Payne, feels like most imitations: cheap. — M. Pols. (R: violence, sexuality, language and drug content.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. **C**

"THE ONE": Combining time-travel with the action-hero-in-dual-roles element, Jet Li plays a killer imprisoned in one "multiverse" who zips through a wormhole into our universe, where he faces off against a cop while blithely racking up a body count. Both Lis are super-fast, super-strong and super-uninterested in logic or recognizable human emotions. The action is well-staged, but even if you can follow the plot, you won't care much about it. — C. Hewitt. (PG-13: intense action violence and some language.) 1 hour, 20 minutes. **D**

"OUT COLD": A teen-oriented comedy about snowboarders trying to halt Lee Majors from turning an

Alaskan resort into a yuppie haven. All the clichés are trotted out in this little sex comedy, including the appearance of a Playboy Playmate. One of the film's redeeming qualities—there are a couple of others, namely the likable cast—is the snowboarding sequences, the most interesting scenes in a film that's entirely formulaic. — C. Lemire. (PG-13: language, crude and sexual humor and substance abuse.) 1 hour, 29 minutes. **C-**

"RUSH HOUR 2": Peppy, unpretentious fun with a paper-thin plot. It's a rush job of a sequel. Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker are back, chasing bad guys through Hong Kong, L.A. and Las Vegas, cracking jokes all the way. Some of them fall flat, but there are still many good chuckles here. Chan, more comfortable with English now, is a gem, but director Brett Ratner blows the buzz by showing us a series of outtakes at the end that are far funnier than anything we've seen to date. — M. Pols. (PG-13: action violence, language and some sexual material.) 1 hour, 29 minutes. **C+**

"SERENDIPITY": Adorable Jon (John Cusack) meets adorable Sara (Kate Beckinsale) one magical night in New York. Believing in fate, she refuses to exchange phone numbers or names in the usual fashion. Seven years later, both of them are teetering on the brink of marriage to unsuitable others and wondering what might have been. They set out to find each other, leading to the kind of quest where Party A gets in a cab that pulls away from the curb just as Party B comes running up. Repeatedly "Sleepless in Seattle" teased us with near-misses, "Serendipity" taunts us until it's hard to care about the couple. This romance is passable, but you expect more from a John Cusack movie. Can easily wait for the rental. — M. Pols. (PG-13: a scene of sexuality, brief language.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. **C-**

"SHALLOW HALL": From advertisements and previews, this comedy from the Farrelly brothers seems like it must be astonishingly insulting to overweight people. But while it does plunge cheerfully into the brothers' customary tastelessness, it is also oddly sweet, soulful, and even, egads, well-intentioned. Jack Black plays shallow Hal, an average guy only attracted to women of supermodel stature. All that changes when he's hypnotized by self help guru Anthony Robbins, who opens his eyes to the beauty of women such as Rosemary, a 300-pound Peace Corps volunteer. To Hal, Rosemary is slim, svelte Gwyneth Paltrow. The movie is sloppily shot and edited, but it's got its charms, and the Farrellys clearly have big hearts. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language and sexual content.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. **B-**

"SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK": A gregarious ditty about six New Yorkers whose lives are intertwined because of their romantic choices, written and directed by Ed Burns ("The Brothers McMullen"), who also co-stars as Tommy, a TV executive looking for love. He hooks up with Maria (Rosario Dawson), a schoolteacher who is recently divorced from Ben, a doorman. Ben has a fresh crush on Ashley (the excellent Brittany Murphy), a 19-year-old waitress who is sleeping with a married man, Griffin (a cheerfully repugnant Stanley Tucci). Meanwhile, Griffin is married to morally upright Annie (Heather Graham), who happens to be Tommy's real estate agent and, possibly, his soulmate. Lightweight, like Woody Allen without hard feelings, but fun, with lots of frank—and accurate—talk about sex and love. — M. Pols. (R: sexual content and language.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. **B**

"SPY GAME": According to director Tony Scott's ("Top Gun") lively thriller, everyone at the CIA is a bonehead, except for Nathan Muir (Robert Redford), a leftover from the Cold War days. It's 1991, and Nathan has to play cat-and-mouse with the gang at Langley to save his protégé Tom Bishop (Brad Pitt) from certain death

at the hands of the Chinese government. Those looking for major thrills will be disappointed that Nathan never wields any weapon more powerful than a cell phone or a fax machine. But Redford is mighty appealing in what is his best role in years. Pitt's part as the idealistic Tom is more limited, but he's fine as well (in every sense of the word). — M. Pols. (R: language, violence and brief sexuality.) 2 hours, 7 minutes. **B**

"TAPE": Another intelligent, thought-provoking film from director Richard Linklater. Two old high-school buddies, one a slacker drug dealer (Ethan Hawke) and the other an ambitious yuppie filmmaker (Robert Sean Leonard), meet in a seedy hotel and talk about the past, specifically the slacker's contention that the yuppie date-raped his ex-girlfriend in high school. Eventually the girl (Uma Thurman) turns up and we get the truth. Sort of. "Tape" excels in exposing the role that power plays in relationships, even within friendships. The problem with the film is it feels too obviously like a Lesson in Human Relations, but at the same time it gets under your skin and defies you to forget it. — M. Pols. (R: language and drug content.) 1 hour, 26 minutes. **B**

"TRAINING DAY": A taut drama of police corruption, "Training Day" is to be admired for reaching high toward the "Serpio" standard. But it's only two-thirds there, the other third is self-important nonsense. Denzel Washington goes way over the top as a corrupt narcotics cop showing a young trainee (an excellent, low-key Ethan Hawke) the ropes. There are many implausible plot points throughout, including the notion that a training day would last 24 hours, or include a front row seat to corruption that you'd think the cops might want to keep mum about, but director Anthony Fuqua keeps the suspense high until the bitter, bloody and ridiculous end. — M. Pols. (R: strong, brutal violence, pervasive language, drug content and brief nudity.) 2 hours. **B**

"VA SAVOIR": A gentle, lighthearted ensemble piece about temptations, loyalty and the surprising connections between its half-dozen main characters, from French New Wave co-founder Jacques Rivette. Jeanne Balibar shines as a stage actress who returns to Paris after a three-year absence and sets out to find her old lover, a pompous philosophy teacher, while her new lover and co-star (Sergio Castellitto) goes on a quest to find a lost Goldenoi plan. Ultimately rewarding, but slow going, folks. Stop for coffee on the way. — M. Pols. (PG-13: brief nudity.) 2 hours, 30 minutes. **B**

"WAKING LIFE": A stunning animated experience that technically knocks you out but leaves you feeling unfulfilled. Writer-director Richard Linklater made the movie as a live-action feature, then put the finished product into the computer and animated it. The end result is a film—essentially a meditation on life, death and dreams—that takes itself too seriously and without a real cohesive narrative to string things together. That said, the film visually is a vibrant feast for the eyes. Too bad what the characters have to say doesn't match the novel animation. — C. Lemire. (R: language and some violent images.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. **C+**


"THE WASH": Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg are Sean and Dee Loc, blunt-smoking buddies who share an apartment where they like to entertain the ladies and play loud music. The rent is due, so Dee Loc suggests that Sean join him as a brother in suds at the local car wash. Sean soon becomes a manager and the friends' philosophies come into conflict. But when the boss gets kidnapped, the felias have to work together to save him. Character development and narrative logic are just barely hinted at, and overall, the phrase "It is what it is" has never seemed more appropriate. — C. Vognar. (R: language, nudity, sexual content, drugs, violence, bathroom humor.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. **C-**

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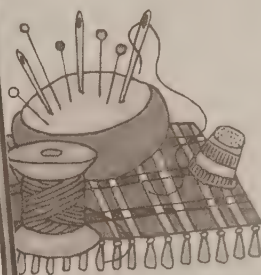
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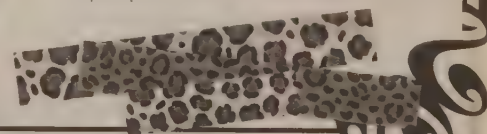
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Events

FROM PAGE C6

CLASSICAL MUSIC

California Bach Society — "Monteverdi — Mass for Christmas Day," Warren Stewart conducting, Nov. 30, 8 p.m. A performance of "Missa In illo tempore" by Monteverdi and solo motets by Monteverdi and others. A pre-concert lecture will take place 45 minutes before the performance. \$25 general; \$18 seniors; \$12 students. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 415-440-2224 or www.calbach.org

Chamber Music Sundaes — Clarinet, bassoon, horn and strings, Dec. 9, 3:15 p.m. A program of works by Mozart, Debussy and Beethoven.

\$18 general; \$14 students and seniors; \$7 youths under age 18. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 415-584-5946

Prometheus Symphony Orchestra — Eric Hansen conducting, Dec. 2, 3 p.m. Guest artist: Keith Sklower, oboe. A performance of works by Mozart and Dvorak. Donations requested. St. Ambrose Church, 1145 Gilman St., Berkeley, (925) 447-3659.

San Francisco Lyric Chorus — Robert Gurney directing, Dec. 1, 8 p.m. Guest artists: Christine Earl, soprano; Marcia Gronewald, alto; Corey Head, tenor; and Tim Kroil, bass. A program of French choral music, including works by Charpentier, Poulenc, Messiaen, Duruflé and others. \$20 general; \$17 seniors. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Ave., Oakland, 415-775-5111 or www.sflc.org

Soli Deo Gloria — Classical Seasonal Concert, Allen H. Simon conducting, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. Guest artists: Dominique Piana, harp, and Angela Kraft Cross, organ. A performance of works featuring Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" and others. \$15 to \$20. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 415-447-9823 or www.sdg.org

St. Alban's Parish Hall — Broceland Holiday Concert, Dec. 8, 8 p.m. A program of Celtic, medieval and Renaissance music for the holidays. \$15 adults; \$10 seniors and students. 1501 Washington Ave., Al-

bany, 510-569-0437 or www.broceland.org

First Congregational Church, Berkeley — Magnificat, Dec. 8, 8 p.m. A Dresden Court Chapel Christmas vespers performance of Schutz's "Christmas Story." \$12 to \$25. 2345 Durant St., Berkeley, 415-979-4500 or www.magnificat.org

Trinity Chamber Concerts — UC Berkeley's Collegium Musicum, Dec. 6, 8 p.m. A program of music to celebrate the various holidays of the Winter Solstice. \$12 general; \$8 students and seniors. Trinity Church, 2320 Dana St., Berkeley, 510-549-3864

UC Berkeley — NOON CONCERTS — University Chorus, Mariia Kuzma directing, Dec. 5, noon. A program of holiday favorites. Free. Hertz Hall, University of California Berkeley campus, Berkeley, 510-642-9988.

DANCE

Alice Arts Center — Savage Jazz Dance Company, Nov. 30 to Dec. 2. An evening of live jazz dance and music, including world premieres to the music of Max Roach and Wynton Marsalis. Featuring the Marcus Shelby Quintet. \$20 general; \$15 seniors and students. 1428 Alice St., Oakland, (925) 798-1300.

Berkeley City Ballet — 28th Annual "Nutcracker," Dec. 8 through Dec. 16. The Sugar Plum Fairy, the toy-maker Herr Drosselmeyer, Clara and the Nutcracker Prince return to the East Bay. Berkeley Performances: Dec. 8, 2 p.m.; Dec. 9, 2 p.m. Berkeley Community Theater, 1930 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-841-8921 or (866) 468-3393. Fremont Performances: Dec. 15, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dec. 16, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Jackson Theater, Ohio College Campus, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. \$18 general; \$14 seniors and children under 12. www.ticketweb.com

Cal Performances — "The Hard Nut," Dec. 7 through Dec. 16. Holiday fun returns to Berkeley with tales of bewitched princesses, international pursuit and true romance. \$28 to \$52. Dec. 7, Dec. 13, and Dec. 14, 8 p.m.; Dec. 9 and Dec. 16, 3 p.m.; Dec. 8 and Dec. 15, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Berkeley, Bancroft Way at Telegraph Av-

enue, Berkeley, 510-642-9988 or tickets.com

Julia Morgan Center For The Arts — "The Nutcracker," Dec. 7 through Dec. 16. Principal roles will be performed by Youth Company members. Dec. 7, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.; Dec. 9 and Dec. 16, 2 p.m.; Dec. 8 and Dec. 15, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. \$16. Kaleidoscope Performances Sunday Family Matinee, Dec. 9 and Dec. 16, 2 p.m. \$10 general; \$5 children. 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6489

La Pena Cultural Center — "Gran Festival de Carnaval," Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Ethnic dance and music groups perform, including Araucaria, Viento, Venezuelan Music Project, Fogo Na Ropa, Rasmo and De Rompe y Raja. \$14. Call for times and performances. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2588 or www.lapena.org

MusicoSources — "Gavotte and You," Dec. 9, 5 p.m. Dance doyenne Carol Taten will introduce the 18th-century dance. \$18 general; \$15 seniors and students. 1000 The Alameda, Berkeley, 510-528-1685.

The Starry Plough Pub — "Dance Class & Ceilí," Mondays, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance. "The Starry Session," Sundays, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale.

For age 21 and over. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082

KID STUFF

Barnes And Noble, Oakland — "Kids Story Times," ongoing. Stories will be read in the Children's book area. Free. Thursday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. 98 Broadway, Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-272-0120

Buddy Club Children's Shows — "Earthcapades," Dec. 2, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. This is one of the world's wackiest comedy troupes. Joining "Earthcapades" are jugglers Hearty and Lissen and the music duo Colibri. For children age 2 through 12 and their parents. "Mr. Horsefeathers," Dec. 9, 1 p.m. A mime, juggler and magician entertains children with his fast-paced physical comedy, magical effects and juggling. \$7 general; free children under age 2. Berkeley Jewish Community Center Theater, 1414 Walnut St.,

Berkeley, 510-236-SHOW or www.thebuddyclub.com

Chabot Space And Science Center — A state-of-the-art facility uniting all science education activities around astronomy. Free with regular Center admission. "Star Wars: Art of the Starfighter," through Jan. 6. Visitors will explore the art of filmmaking through models in this new exhibit, which includes props used in the Star Wars movies, reproductions of concept art for spacecraft and a Lucasfilm documentary video.

WEEKEND SPOTLIGHT: "The Naboo Starfighter," through November. Free with regular Center admission.

"Bubble Domes and Bottom's Up," Saturday and Sunday. Make your own version of the Naboo underwater settlements. Ongoing. "Imagination Factory," Dec. 1 and Dec. 2, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Ordinary junk becomes a robot, a spaceship or a planet landscape with the help of imagination.

"Earth to Moon Scale," Dec. 1, Dec. 2, Dec. 15, Dec. 16 and Dec. 26 through Dec. 30, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at hourly intervals.

Scale models like the ones in the "Star Wars" exhibit are useful for talking about the Earth/Moon system. On the half hour, there will be 15-minute demonstrations. In the Physics/Chemistry Lab

CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER COMMUNITY MISSIONS — Second Saturday, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. For adults and youths age 11 and up. Limited space. \$15. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-7300 or www.chabotspace.org

Children's Fairyland USA — A fairy tale theme park featuring more than 30 colorful fantasy sets. Designed especially for children age 10 and under, there are gentle rides, a train, the "Peter Rabbit Village," puppet shows, story-telling and lots of slides and animals.

"Play Island," ongoing. A multi-level treehouse play area inspired by the novel "Swiss Family Robinson."

"The Nutcracker" Puppet Show, through Dec. 30. The delightful tale of a young girl given a nutcracker for Christmas that turns into a prince and takes her on an evening of adventure to foreign lands. Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS — "Wrapping Secrets Around Me," Dec. 1 and Dec. 2, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Kellmar performs African

American Quilt stories. \$6 general includes unlimited rides special shows, guest entertainers and puppet shows; free children under age 1. Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 699 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, 510-452-2259. 510-238-6878 or www.fairyland.org

Cody's Books — Preschool storytime, Wednesday and Saturday 10:30 a.m. 1730 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-559-9500

Dunsmuir House And Gardens Historic Estate — SPECIAL EVENT — "Christmas at Dunsmuir," through Dec. 16. This holiday event includes tours of the Mansion, decorated in Victorian Christmas style, holiday teas, children's teas and luncheons, carolers, horse-drawn carriages for hire, craft booths, children's activities, and visits from Father Christmas. Tickets are sold by date and are valid only on that date. Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mansion Tours, Friday through Sunday, 11:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The tours are 45 minutes long and begin every 15 minutes. Reservations required. Admission and Mansion Tour: \$10 general; \$9 seniors; \$6 youths age 6 to 13. Luncheon Buffet in the Garden Pavilion, Friday through Sunday 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$16 per person.

Children's Tea with Father Christmas, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, 11:15 a.m. Reservations suggested. \$18 general; \$16 children age 13 and under. 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland (925) 275-9490 or 510-615-5555 or www.dunsmuir.org

Habitot Children's Museum — A museum especially for children age 7 and younger. Highlights include "WaterWorks," an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-scale grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library.

EXHIBIT — "Back to the Farm,"

Hall of Health Museum — STORYTELLING SERIES — Dec. 12. The reads from the museum's collection of books.

Free. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-7300 or www.chabotspace.org

Jack London Square — Yacht Parade on Tuesday, Dec. 11. Join the parade and see the boats. Free. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-7300 or www.chabotspace.org

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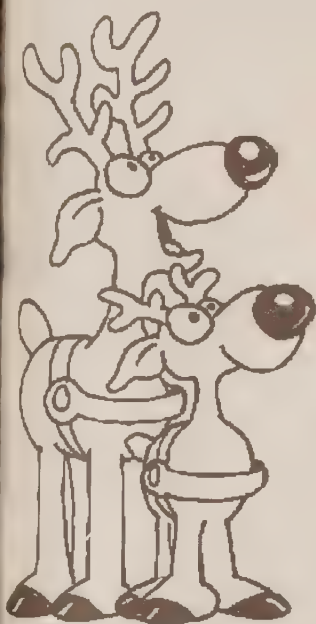
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Saturday 11am-7pm

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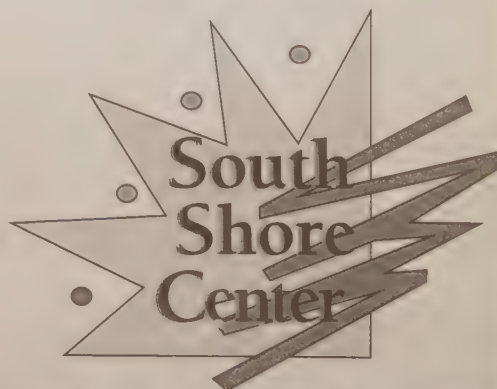
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Store Parties & Events!

Montclair Village's Holiday Road Show, 12pm - 3pm.
Dust off that precious antique and come on over for a free verbal appraisal of any single item by expert appraiser Steven Jesse Mazzio. Mr. Mazzio is an established Bay Area antique dealer with over 20 years of experience. Owners Nelly Kye, Cate and Jerry the Pug also will be serving wine & hors d'oeuvres. The Road Show will be held at the Montclair Village, 15% for one day only! A special holiday collection of over 100 antique dolls will also be on view and for sale. Come one, come all!
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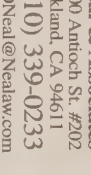
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

Teen Support Group meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free support group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. For more information, call PediatricCare at 531-7551.

Check out books from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is located at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For more information, call 848-0237.

Hall of Health, 2230 Shattuck Ave., a health exhibit museum of Children's Hospital Oakland, presents free puppet shows, 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Kids on the Block, the award-winning educational puppet troupe, features puppets with such conditions as cerebral palsy, blindness and Down syndrome. The Hall of Health is a hands-on community, health-education museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital Oakland and Alta Bates Medical Center. Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 549-3682.

The City of El Cerrito, offers special programs for children from 22 months to five years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Mooser Lane. For more information, call Judie, 215-4371.

LBGTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent childcare. All groups meet at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. For information or to RSVP, contact Anna at familyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-789-8560 classes.

The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. For information: 524-0821.

Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley's public science museum and center for K-12 science and math education offers three residential summer science camps, including two camps held at actual University of California field research stations, and three Sierra backpacking summer science camps. Each camp emphasizes fun outdoor science explorations through hands-on, inquiry-based activities, as well as lots of traditional camp fun. Each camp has a unique theme, and is designed for a specific age group. Call 642-2275 or e-mail to: linfo@quclink.berkeley.edu. To register, call 642-5134.

"Theater Rats," Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

Health

Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

YWCA Health and Community Education: drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, 848-6370; 58 - \$10.

Community

TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 is now meeting from 7:15-8:30 p.m. every Thursday evening at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. For more information call Betty Coates at 235-0490. This chapter has moved from Richmond.

Dog and puppy temporary foster homes urgently needed. Shelters overcrowded, situation desperate. Call Hopalong Animal Rescue today, 530-5154.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. To sign up for an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine Ph.D. has a background in Design and Education. For the past 10 years, she has assisted in producing numerous resumes as part of her desktop publishing business. Call 848-6370 for additional information.

Marion Rosen, founder of Rosen Method bodywork and movement, presents the Method through lecture, demonstration, and experiential practice. Rosen is joined in the presentation by Sara Webb, Senior Teacher of Rosen Method bodywork. Location: Feldenkrais Resources, 830 Bancroft Way. Admission: \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Abby Paige, at 845-6606.

Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. To register, or for more information, call the Office of Emergency Services, 844-8736.

Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC-Berkeley Department of Architecture. College of Environmental Design on Alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. For additional information call 642-0808.

Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 PM at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the childcare room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice—Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

mation

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

"Work Buddies"; volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 844-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic; 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project; the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

The Edible Schoolyard; an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335 for information.

English-In-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley, Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley; serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 468-5663.

Exhibits

Berkeley Artisans Holiday Open Studios is from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends, Dec. 1 and 2, 8 and 9, 15 and 16. A free map is available listing all participants. Over one hundred professional artists and craftspeople open their doors to the public. Artwork includes blown glass, functional and decorative ceramics, ornaments, menorahs, clocks, lamps and lighting, furniture, garden art, bird houses, egg dioramas, floor cloths, clothing, textiles, many styles of jewelry, sculpture, photography, paintings, original prints, and more. All artwork is hand-crafted, and many pieces are one-of-a-kind. This free self-guided tour offers opportunities to meet the artists, and to see inside working studios. For more information, call Susan Brooks at 845-2612.

Albany Community Center continues its exhibit of acrylic paintings by Mei-Rung Huang through Dec. 6 in its foyer, 1249 Main Ave., Albany. The exhibit entitled "Lotus," is influenced by both Eastern and Western traditions of art. Huang has been painting since she was very young and studied with her parents as well as several masters in Taiwan. She later majored in Art at Eastern Oregon State University. For more information, call 524-9283.

The Richmond Museum of History continues exhibits highlighting Richmond's agricultural beginnings, industrial achievements, and hometown contributions during WWII. Special exhibits and events are held throughout the year. The museum is located in the historic 1910 Carnegie Library in the Old Downtown area at the corner of 4th Street and Nevil Ave. Call 235-

7387 for more information or to arrange tours.

The City of El Cerrito presents Open Clay Studio ongoing classes on Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Experience with clay is helpful, but not necessary. Opportunities will be provided for students to explore areas of clay work. Demonstrations and instruction will be provided on requests. Admission: \$7.50 residents, \$9.38 nonresidents. The location: Tassajara Pottery Center, 2575 Tassajara Boulevard. For more information, call Judie at 215-4371.

Alta Bates Medical Center presents work by members of the California Watercolor Association at its Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The gallery is in the main corridor to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information.

New Pieces Gallery is located on Solano Avenue. New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

Literary Events

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Allston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call 644-6648 to set up a training session.

Meetings

Berkeley Camera Club meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday evenings, at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 525-3565.

Berkeley Camera Club meet Tuesday evenings, 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: Don at 525-3565.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts hosts an informational and discussion session regarding dance opportunities in the Bay Area. The center opens its doors to the dance community and presents its plans for Dance Week 2002 and for future dance performances on the stage of Julia Morgan Theatre. The event is free. RSVP to Bridget Frederick at bridget@juliamorgan.org or by calling 845-8542, ext. 302. Visit the Web site at www.juliamorgan.org for more details.

Kensington Senior Activity Center meets from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

ton Ave. The West Contra Costa Adult school and community volunteers present the Center's program of life-long learning. Attend any class or event. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Volunteers of all ages are needed. Call 526-9146 or 547-1969 for more information.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 25 meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at 2068 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more information, call R. DeRita, Omdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public and the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillegass Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For more information, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

Berkeley Toastmasters Club meet monthly on the first and third Thursdays at 2515 Hillegass Ave. The group specializes in developing its communication and public speaking skills in the field of metaphysics. The group also learn from each other through short speeches. Call Odette Larde at 869-2547 or 643-7645.

The Kensington Senior Activity Center meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Call 526-9146 or 547-1969 for additional information.

The YWCA offers free orientations every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the center's resources and the variety of workshops it offers to the public. For additional information, call 848-6370.

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Generation Gap: Mercedes takes SUVs to new level [D3]



BOB HAGIN

Cadillac marks its 98th year

BY TOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE
Cadillac first appeared on the American auto market in 1903, the year of the failure of Henry Ford to produce anything but race cars.

Initially expecting a return on investment, Ford's exasperated financial backers call upon Henry Leland, an elderly automotive engineer of considerable note, to assess the operation with the idea of selling off the plant and all its fixtures to any available taker.

Instead, Leland convinced the consortium that the factory could be put to immediate use in the production of a single-cylinder vehicle of his own design. Ford was unceremoniously out and Leland was in.

But Leland didn't put his own name to the venture, an honor usually reserved for the investor putting in the most money. But neither did he want the canny investors. Instead, the humble little car was named for the Saint Antoine de la Cadillac, the French adventurer who first explored the area that became the site of the city of Detroit.

Leland immediately made Cadillac a respected name in the embryonic international automobile world. The concept of precision manufacturing of interchangeable parts was a new one and Leland's ground-breaking achievement in

See HAGIN Page D3



GENERAL MOTORS/SATURN

SATURN'S SC2 COUPE looks like a hatchback, but it really has an 11-cubic-foot trunk. GM's engineers solved the problem of seat belts with a third door by attaching them to the roof instead of the second roof pillar.

SC2 coupe is stellar performer of Saturn's S-series

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

General Motors' Saturn Corporation has matured nicely and is poised to show a resurgence.

New products such as the mid-sized L-Series sedans and wagons and the recently introduced Vue sport utility vehicle are sure to produce activity at Saturn retailers around the country.

But it's been the S-Series models that have taken the company to where it is now. The SC1 coupe is the company's entry level vehicle but this week we test the company's top-line SC2 three-door.

Outside: The SC2 had several exterior changes last year including a larger air intake scoop set just below the front bumper and a pair of headlamps that sport a swoopy design.

The driving lights now reside in their own wells at each leading edge of the front fenders. A sweeping character line begins low at the front end and ends high on the tail where the seam of the rear bumper cap meets the body.

The SC2's hatchback look is somewhat misleading. Underneath the steeply raked rear window,

TOM HAGIN
Solo Road Test

where normally a hatchback would be, is an 11-cubic-foot trunk with a wide opening and low lift-over but a pair of cargo crushing trunk lid hinges intrude on the space.

The rear seats fold down, however, so added space is available. Its third door swings open rearward, with a hidden hinge inside the door jamb.

Now optional are 15-inch alloy

wheels or a new wheel cover, and with several new color choices.

Inside: The SC2's interior is well appointed and gives a look and feel that seems like it should be in a more expensive vehicle. Entry into the rear seat is greatly enhanced by the extra door.

It's still very small back there, so adults won't find it the ideal space for long trips. But kids and dogs love it, and other compact coupes in its class don't offer any more room.

The dashboard has a clean, uncluttered look and feel, and the fit

and finish is of a very high quality. Gauges are large and legible and the climate control system is powerful, but the climate controls are low on the center stack, which forces a bit longer reach than we'd like.

A nicely integrated center console offers a cupholder, a small coin well and the controls for the power mirrors. A second console with a pair of cupholders is integrated into the rear seat.

The third door could have cre-

See SOLO, Page D2

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Ford designs new Focus ZX5 for performance and worldwide market

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Mikele: Ford has had its troubles recently, but that's the past and now the company is back to the business of building and selling cars and trucks.

The U.S. isn't the only market for Ford products, of course, and many times the vehicles that an American company makes for other markets are different than what's sold here.

But Ford is making much of the fact that the Ford Focus models sold here are pretty much the same ones sold in Europe. The company introduced the very continental Focus ZX5.

Brendan: One of the new cars my folks bought when I was little was a compact that had four conventional doors and a lift-up door in back.

It wasn't a square-back wagon, so the slant-back body style acquired the generic name hatchback.

The genre fell from favor for a long time—I guess because it was perceived as a cheap or entry-level model. But now lots of automakers have reintroduced the style and it seems to be catching on with the twenty-something crowd—exactly the market niche that Ford has in mind for the Focus.

As with most small cars that are sold here, the Focus comes as a basic entry-level vehicle for young families and fleet use, but it can also

BRENDAN/MIKELE HAGIN Gender Gap

be had in performance versions. The ZX5 four-door hatchback is one of these and it's new for '02.

Like the rest of the Focus line, it has a relatively long wheelbase and is somewhat on the tall side, an aspect that takes some getting used to.

Mikele: I don't have any trouble with that, Bren. It's very pleasant to get into a vehicle that you don't need a stepladder to climb into like most SUVs or struggle to get out of because it's so low like a roadster. The front seats in the ZX5 are comfortable enough but they could use more support on the sides.

Most people don't toss a car around like you do so I guess that it won't make a great deal of difference to them. But the lumbar area has been bolstered in the latest version and this is something that the average buyer will appreciate.

The front seats are manually adjustable for height, but it takes some effort and maneuvering to get the driver's seat into a just-right position.

Leather upholstery is an optional extra but my practical side says that it's an unnecessary frill.

Brendan: There's lots of stan-

dard stuff that's pretty cool on the ZX5. The 18-inch alloy wheels give it a racy look and the six-disc in-dash CD player makes it fun to cruise.

It comes with air conditioning, power door locks and windows, and for a guy my size, the tilt steering wheel that also telescopes makes it a lot easier to find a comfortable driving position.

The powerplant is pretty hot, too. Ford calls it "Zetec," a twin-cam four-banger with four valves per cylinder that puts out a very strong 130 horses.

Ford is really anxious to promote the Focus concept to the youth market and it's just put some money into a new small single-seater racing series that uses fairly stock Zetec engines in quarter-mile oval track cars.

The racers are rear-wheel-drive, of course, but the Focus ZX5 is front-wheel drive like every other contemporary small sedan on the road today.

It comes standard with a five-speed stick-shift but it can also be had with a four-speed automatic transmission and I'll bet that this is the one that will be most popular in the ZX5.

Mikele: The design of the ZX5 is referred to as edgy by Ford, but I think that I'm too old now to understand what that means.



FORD FOCUS ZX5 hatchback is new model of popular compact car for 2002

Ford plans to participate in college life through a multi-faceted program designed to plug into college music, fashion, technology and sports.

Brendan: This may be just the beginning of something big for Ford. Maybe the company could do the same thing on the other end of the scale with its Crown Victoria sedan.

It could do concerts and happenings at retirement homes and other locations with music and performers that appeal to the geriatric set.

Mikele: I don't think that would be possible, Bren. Lawrence Welk and his Champagne News guys are only seen in reruns now.

FORD FOCUS ZX5

Suggested Retail Price as Tested	DOHC 16-valve 2.0-liter 4-cyl.
Engine Type	121 cu. in.
Engine Size	130 @ 5,500
Horsepower	127 @ 4,200
Torque	Five-speed
Transmission	2,600 lbs.
Curb Weight	13.2
Fuel Capacity	(F/R) 20.5
Tires	(F/R) Disc ABS
Brakes	Front-engine
Drive Train	Four-pass
Vehicle Type	
Mileage	
0-60 mph	

*Sequential multi-port fuel injection

Check manual for details about timing belt

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Q My 1994 Ford two-wheel drive Ranger pickup has a 4.0-liter engine with a feedback fuel system. It has six cylinders, fuel injection, a catalytic converter and a four-speed automatic transmission.

It has 105,000 miles on it. Should I have the timing chain replaced or will I get some sort of warning light if it needs to be replaced?

A.N. Galt, Calif.

A Most modern engines use a fiberglass-reinforced toothed belt to turn one or two camshafts that are on top of the head or heads. This belt is subjected to dirt, dust, heat and wear and should be changed periodically to avoid engine catastrophe if it fails.

Most automakers strongly recommend this at around 60,000 to 80,000 miles, but the 4.0-liter V-6 in your Ranger is a fairly archaic design that uses a single short drive chain to spin a single camshaft that's located low in the block. The camshaft lobes push camshaft followers which in turn push pushrods that rock rockers that open and close two valves per cylinder.

Unlike a belt, this chain is less subjected to wear since it's inside the engine and well lubricated. They do break on rare occasion.

When a mechanic is using a strobe timing light on a pushrod engine, he can tell if the timing chain is worn by watching the action of the light when the engine is accelerated and decelerated.

There's no set mileage to indicate when it should be changed. Whether you bought your Ranger new or used, I hope that you

BOB HAGIN Questions and Answers

have the original owner's handbook that came with the truck. In most cases, it will tell you almost everything you'll need to know about your vehicle and maybe even more than you need.

Q I have a 1973 Volkswagen Super Beetle which I would like to have restored. I have searched the Web and could not find anyone in the area who does restorations.

I got several addresses out of a magazine but they are all on the West Coast.

My Beetle has been garaged for the last 12 to 14 years and has not been driven since the day I drove it into the garage, a big mistake. Do you know of any shops in this area who would do such restorations?

H.L. Chesapeake, Va.

A As you no doubt know, vehicles on the West Coast or in the Southwest aren't subjected to snow or ice on winter roads so they don't rust very much.

Beetles aren't extremely collectible yet, so the call for VW specialty shops isn't as great as in areas where there are a lot of them still on the street and in conditions good enough for a fairly inexpensive restoration.

Like it or not, I think you're going to have to ship your car out of state to get a really good job done but if a shop owner in your area lets me know, I'll pass the information on to you.

Check his credentials very thoroughly, though, you could get burned.

Q I have a question about using gears for braking. When I descend a steep grade driving my Ford Taurus, I shift into D instead of overdrive. This maintains a pretty reasonable speed over such a steep grade with only minimal use of the brakes. Is this good or bad?

L.A. Eugene, Ore.

A The brake system on your Taurus is an energy-transfer machine. It transfers the energy of forward motion into heat energy through the friction of its brake pads or shoes against its brake rotors and/or drums.

The heat is transferred into the atmosphere as the air you're moving through passes over the brakes.

When you shift into D and your Taurus slows down, you save on the brake pads and shoes but it's the automatic transmission fluid (ATF) that has to take the energy of retardation and get rid of it somehow.

The automatic transmission has an intercooler system in the radiator to keep the coolant and the ATF at around the same temperatures.

If Taurus transmissions are up to the added wear and heat, you shouldn't have any trouble from downshifting but you should have your ATF changed more frequently than normal.

Bob Hagin writes for Pachecho Automotive News Service in Concord, Calif. Write to him c/o Hills Newspapers, PO Box 5088, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Ford, USAC create oval track series in Southern California

BY SCOTT DENBY

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Ford Racing and the United States Auto Club has announced the formation of the Ford Focus Midget Car Series presented by the Southern California Ford Dealers.

This new series will begin competition in spring of 2002 and contest a tentative 20-race schedule at as many as six tracks in Southern California.

A cooperative effort between Ford Racing Technology, S.C.R.E.A.M. (Small Car Racing Engines and More), and USAC, the Ford Focus Midget Car Series is designed to address the growing need for affordable, reliable, entry-level racing opportunities. Midget racing has long been recognized as a preferred venue for young aspiring drivers and the Ford Focus Midget Car Series is designed to give young racers a cost-effective avenue to pursue racing.

"We hope the Ford Focus Midget Car Series becomes one of the first steps for young, aspiring drivers looking to go racing," said Dan Davis, director of Ford Racing Technology.

The Ford Focus Midget Cars will be based on the current USAC Midget chassis but will be powered by an internally stock, 2.0-liter Ford Zetec engine currently found in the Ford Focus—one of the top selling cars in the world. A reliable and affordable foundation for the series, this engine was developed by Ford Racing Technology and S.C.R.E.A.M. and generates 175 horsepower at 7,000 rpm. But more importantly, it's designed to last an entire

season with no significant maintenance.

Building this program around a 2.0-liter Ford Focus Zetec engine made complete sense," said Davis. "The performance was there from the beginning. We didn't need to change internally within the engine to get performance we were after."

Ford Racing Technology, S.C.R.E.A.M. have developed an affordable, reliable and cost-effective free when compared to other entry-level racing series.

Adding to the value of this program, the Ford Focus Midget Car Series will contribute to the Ford Focus Midget Car Series purse, making it one of the most attractive purse structures of any of the race series in the country.

"The Southern California Ford Dealers are very excited to be part of this series," said Sam Scott, Ford Division marketing manager. "We know our customers are interested in racing and this new series gives the Southern California Ford Dealers a way to become involved on a regional level."

"The dealers see the value and of associating Ford with racing and think their customers will too."

"The long-term plan for this program is to grow it beyond Southern California. Ideally, we'd like to have a regional series eventually compete for a national umbrella program that even lead to a national championship."

Solo Road Test

FROM PAGE D1

ated a challenge for designers to relocate the seat belt, but GM has attached it to the roof instead of to the second roof pillar.

On the Road: A choice of powerplants is offered: the first, a 1.9-liter single overhead cam four cylinder delivers 100 horsepower and 114 pound-feet of torque, but it's only available in the SC1.

The SC2 is powered by a twin-cam four cylinder of the same displacement. It develops 124 horsepower and 122 pound-feet of torque.

It accelerates nicely and over the last few years, updates such as a new, better balanced crankshaft, lighter pistons and longer connecting rods have made it smoother and quieter than before.

Consistent attention to quelling noise, vibration and harshness have really shown improvement since the S-series line was introduced, and is now on par with the best of imports.

A five-speed manual is standard in both SC1 and SC2 but our tester carried the optional electronically-controlled four-speed automatic.

Behind the Wheel: Saturn's stiff space frame is the skeleton in which its composite plastic body panels attach. The feeling on the road is that of a substantial vehicle, with the improved attention to noise reduction really showing itself in this latest model.

Its MacPherson strut-type front suspension and tri-

link setup in the rear keeps it nicely balanced and gives a sprightly, fun-to-drive feeling, especially on twisting roads.

The SC2 has a stabilizer bar incorporated into the rear suspension, which keeps it relatively flat in turns. It uses variable-assist rack-and-pinion steering, while front disc and rear drum brakes are standard and can be fitted with optional anti-lock braking.

Safety: Dual dashboard airbags and side-impact door beams standard; ABS, traction control and head-curtain airbags are optional.

Options: ABS/traction control package, \$695; power sunroof, \$725; 15-inch alloy wheels, \$350; leather seating surfaces, \$700; mats, \$70.

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Suggested Retail	\$17,408
Price as Tested	\$19,948
Engine Type	DOHC 16-valve 1.9-liter L4 w/SMFI*
Engine Size	1161 cid/1901 cc
Horsepower	124 @ 5,600 rpm
Torque	122 @ 4,800 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Curb Weight	2,704 pounds
Fuel Capacity	12.1 gallons
Tires	(F/R) 195-60R15
Brakes	(F/R) Disc (ABS)/drum (ABS)
Drive Train	Front-engine/front-wheel drive
Vehicle Type	Four-passenger/three-door
Mileage	City/highway 25/36
0-60 mph	10.5 seconds

*Sequential multi-port fuel injection

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Mercedes-Benz ML55 — an SUV that can go 150 mph

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Bob: I think that there has to be a streak of madness in the engineering department of Mercedes-Benz. Or maybe a better word would be eccentricity.

Why else would this perfectly rational company known for building the most precise and well-planned vehicles in the world build a machine like the ML55 AMG?

By definition an SUV is a utility vehicle built to slowly but surely traverse rough terrain and do it with a minimum of passengers. It must do this while also carrying all the necessary paraphernalia that is needed when their destination is reached.

But the ML55 should be considered a high-performance sports sedan with unusually high ground clearance.

It handles high-speed turns better than most family sedans, brakes like a sports car and goes from 0-60 in just over six seconds. Those numbers sound like no other SUV on earth.

Matt: I find it hard to figure out the ML55 myself. Mercedes already has the ML430 SUV that can outperform and out-luxury almost every other vehicle in the segment.

But to make the ML55, Mercedes sends plain, stripped Mercedes to AMG, its in-house hot-rod shop, for a plethora of modifications.

AMG strokes the standard 4.3-liter V-8 engine out to 331 cubic inches, installs a special steel crank, port compression height pistons, high-lift, high-overlap camshafts as well as several other high-tech engine items.

This jumps the already high 268

MATT AND BOB HAGIN
Generation Gap

horses to 342.

The torque is increased a proportionate amount which gives it amazing low-end pulling power. And in spite of these speed-shop tricks, the ML55 is as docile as a family minivan when it's called upon to perform all the family chores that go along with the genre.

Bob: Like the other two ML-Class Mercedes SUVs, the ML55 has full-time all-wheel-drive with traction control and the trick Mercedes electronic stability control system that applies individual brakes and reduces engine power if the driver has gotten the thing out of shape on the highway or in inclement weather.

The transmission is a five-speed automatic that has a "Tiptronic" system that lets the driver either shift up-and-down through the gears or put it in "Drive" and let the transmission select the right gear by itself.

To make sure that the ML55 can live up to its role as a no-kidding off-roader, it also has the prerequisite two-speed transfer case that might be necessary for some serious rock-crawling.

Matt: The tires on this thing are not made for rock-crawling, but the people who buy the ML55 probably don't care.

It costs more than \$20,000 more than the otherwise top-of-the-line ML430, which makes it a very exclusive vehicle. In fact, I think the factory cut-off is something like 1,500 units per year, so high-rollers have to line up to buy them.

The suspension system and brakes have been massaged by AMG to provide handling and stopping that goes with its very high performance.

Lots of the suspension components are forged from aluminum and all the vulnerable items like the fuel tank, transmission and engine pan are higher than the bottom A-arms of the suspension.

All the usual Mercedes fancy equipment like a global-positioning system, heated seats, self-dimming mirrors and the rest are standard stuff on the ML55.

Bob: On the practical side, there's more than 71 cubic feet of usable cargo space with the back seats down and more than 30 when



THE AMG GROUP of Mercedes-Benz created an SUV with handling and suspension to match its very high performance.

MERCEDES-BENZ ML55 AMG	
Suggested Retail	\$65,900
Price as Tested	\$66,545
Engine Type	SOHC 24-valve 5.5-liter V-8 w/SMFI*
Engine Size	331 cid/5439 cc
Horsepower	342 @ 5,500 rpm
Torque	376 @ 4,500 rpm
Transmission	Five-speed automatic
Curb Weight	5,036 pounds
Fuel Capacity	25 gallons
Tires	(F/R) 285/50R18 high performance
Brakes	(F/R) Disc (ABS)/disc (ABS)
Drive Train	Front-engine/all-wheel drive
Vehicle Type	Five-passenger/live-door
Mileage	City/highway/14/17
0-60 mph	6.3 seconds
Maximum towing	5,000 pounds

*Sequential multi-port fuel injection

Imports, hybrids top fuel-efficiency list

BY RICK POPELY
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — Honda's gas-electric hybrid two-seat Insight, is the most fuel-efficient vehicle sold in the United States for the third year in a row, according to the 2002 EPA fuel-economy estimates released recently.

Insight tops all vehicles with a city rating of 61 miles per gallon and highway rating of 68 mpg with the standard five-speed manual transmission. The combined city/highway average (a formula that puts more weight on the city number) is 64.

With the optional continuously variable automatic transmission, Insight is No. 2 at 57 city, 56 highway and a combined rating of 56 mpg.

The Toyota Prius, a five-passenger, compact, gas-electric sedan, ranks third at 52 city, 45 highway. The Prius, which comes with a continuously variable automatic, rates 49 mpg combined.

Imports round out the top spots. Volkswagen Golf, Jetta and Beetle models with the 1.9-liter, turbo diesel engine and manual transmission each rate 45 mpg combined.

The most efficient domestic model is the Chevrolet Prizm at 35 mpg combined.

GM will drop the Prizm, a clone of the Toyota Corolla, after the 2002 model year.

Dan Becker, director of the Sierra Club's global warming and energy program, says the EPA numbers demonstrate domestic manufacturers have little interest in fuel economy.

Instead, he said, they promote large pickups and sport-utility vehicles because of their higher profits.

"If they were serious about competing with the imports and weaning the U.S. off foreign oil, they would be doing something about it," Becker said.

"Instead, they're sitting on the sidelines with their arms crossed, sniping at efforts to improve fuel economy."

General Motors spokesman Bill Noack responded by saying models that average more than 30 mpg in combined driving, mainly small cars, account for about 2 percent of new-vehicle sales.

"This shows that American consumers are opting for larger vehicles for safety reasons, for utility, for cargo-carrying — the things that larger vehicles provide," Noack said. "In the marketplace, people have seen the advantages of these vehicles."

Imports also dominate the list of gas-guzzlers. The 12-cylinder Lamborghini Mur-

cielo sports car is the worst at 9 city/13 highway for a combined rating of 10.

The Ferrari 360 Modena and several Rolls-Royce and Bentley models each rate 12 combined.

Several mainstream truck models aren't much better. The Cadillac Escalade, GMC Yukon Denali and Range Rover 4.6 HSE, all four-wheel-drive SUVs, and the Dodge Ram full-size pickup with 4WD and the optional 5.9-liter V-8, have a combined rating of 13.

The Chevrolet Corvette is an economy champ by comparison, earning combined ratings of 21 with automatic and 22 with manual transmission.

Average fuel economy for 2002 cars dropped to 23.9 mpg from 24.2 last year, and for trucks it increased to 17.9 mpg from 17.3, the EPA calculates.

However, based on sales of 2001 vehicles, the EPA says fuel economy dropped to a 21-year low of 20.4 mpg because of the popularity of trucks.

Fuel economy estimates are derived from driving simulations conducted on dynamometers in laboratories.

Linda Hormes, an environmental protection specialist at the EPA's vehicle testing lab in Ann Arbor, Mich., says the EPA verifies data from manufacturers by randomly testing 10 percent to 15 percent of the more than 800 vehicle configurations sold.

The EPA ratings are available at www.fueleconomy.gov.



HONDA'S hybrid Insight, above, again is the most fuel-efficient car based on 2002 models.

Hagin

FROM PAGE D1

This field was demonstrated at the Brooklands race track in England in 1908.

Under the supervision of the Royal Automobile Club, three single-cylinder Cadillacs were dismantled, the parts scrambled and then reassembled. The three cars were then run on the track to prove their reliability and their interchangeability of parts.

This earned the company the Dewar's Trophy (a British award offered by the company for early automotive innovation and excellence) and was the basis for the company's still-used motto, "Standard of the World."

In 1909, the company was sold to the American William C. "Billy" Durant to become a cornerstone of his fledgling General Motors company. Durant was wise enough to keep Leland and his son Wilbur in charge of the company and allowed the team to continue to pursue its goal of being a maker of premiere American quality vehicles.

Leland and his son came into a collision course with the high-flying Durant during World War I. According to Durant, they were hated because they let their own personal ego overshadow the needs of Cadillac.

The story the very patriotic Leland told was that Durant refused to let the company produce Liberty airplane engines for the war effort. They left to form their own company to produce Liberty engines and named it after Abraham Lincoln, the first U.S. president the elder Leland had voted for when he reached the age of 21.

Under the guidance of Alfred Sloan and other visionary leaders, General Motors developed the concept of starting buying in entry-level cars and moving them up to more expensive in-house brands as they climbed the ladder of success.

Cadillac was always at the top of the ladder with high quality and innovative features.

Like the horse-drawn carriages that they were derived from, early autos were, for the most part, open to the elements with no protection from the weather.

By 1910, the Cadillac cataloged several closed models, well ahead of the competition. It created a sensation in 1912 when

its models featured reliable electric lighting developed by GM's Delco subsidiary but the high-point of the year was when Cadillac promoted itself as "The Car Without a Crank," referring to the fact that it offered a reliable electric self-starter.

Cadillac won another Dewar's Trophy that year by demonstrating that its Delco starter would start three test cars 1,000 times without failure.

The hallmark of Buick, its corporate sibling, had always been its uses of pushrod overhead valves (at least until overhead camshafts came into use on some of that company's low-priced Skylarks in the '90s), a fact that is still in effect.

Cadillac developed its own early day hallmark in 1915 by offering a V-8 and since then, the V-8 engine has been dominate in the Cadillac lineup with the exception of its even more awesome V-12 and V-16 engines.

The engineering to this rule of engineering continuity came in the '80s with the four-cylinder and V-6 Cimarrons and in the '90s with the V-6 Catera.

The luxury Cadillac survived The Great Depression of the '30s when other parts fell by the wayside and it was due in part to its ongoing reputation for quality and the equally ongoing stability of General Motors.

The post-World War II luxury car market became almost the exclusive territory of Cadillac.

It was a time when other marques emulated the company's trademark rear fender tailfins. It led the way in modern engine configuration in 1949 with its trendsetting short-stroke overhead valve V-8, a design that was soon to become the standard of the American auto industry.

Cadillac fell on some hard times during the past few decades as its design parameters became "dated" and its customer base aged. These and other factors have allowed imported makes to cut deeply into its sales.

But times change and it's quite likely that GM's new president, the innovative and forward-thinking Bob Lutz will find a way to make Cadillac once again "The Standard of the World."

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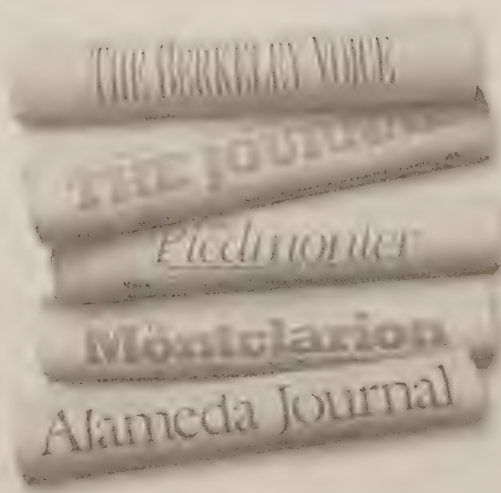
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Current Openings Week of November 26, 2001

JOB CLASSIFICATION	SALARY	CLOSING DATE
Fire Protection Engineer	\$5,050-\$6,201 per month	November 30, 2001
Legal Secretary II	\$3,418-\$4,197 per month	November 30, 2001
Library Assistant II	\$17.01-\$20.89 per hour	November 30, 2001
Permit Technician II	\$21.10-\$25.91 per hour	November 30, 2001
Planner I	\$3,418-\$4,197 per month	November 30, 2001
Planner II	\$3,966-\$4,857 per month	November 30, 2001
Planner III	\$4,581-\$5,624 per month	November 30, 2001
Planner V (General)	\$5,568-\$6,836 per month	November 30, 2001
Planner IV Design Review	\$5,568-\$6,836 per month	November 30, 2001
Program Analyst III	\$4,809-\$5,905 per month	November 30, 2001
Recreation Program Director	\$17,71-\$21.74 per hour	November 30, 2001
Specialty/Combination Inspector	\$26.91-\$33.03 per hour	November 30, 2001
Program Analyst II (Rent Arbitration)	\$4,155-\$5,101 per month	December 7, 2001
Database Administrator	\$6,767-\$8,310 per month	December 14, 2001
Health Development Coordinator III	\$4,581-\$5,624 per month	December 28, 2001
Transportation Engineer, Assistant	\$4,504-\$5,530 per month	December 28, 2001
Transportation Engineer	\$5,243-\$6,438 per month	December 28, 2001
Police Officer: Trainee	\$3.66 per month	January 12, 2002
Museum Education Coordinator	\$4,809-\$5,905 per month	January 18, 2002
Budget & Operations Analyst III	\$3,148-\$6,321 per month	Open Until Further Notice
Financial Analyst	\$5,676-\$6,959 per month	Open Until Further Notice
Complaint Investigator II (ELDE)	\$4,833+ per month, DDO	Open Until Filled
Principal Financial Analyst	\$78,849-\$96,819 per year	Open Until Filled
Urban Economic Analyst III	\$4,581-\$5,624 per month	Open Until Filled
Librarian I	\$20.12-\$24.71 per hour	Continuous

This information sheet includes positions for which the City of Oakland is currently accepting applications. The closing date is the final date for which the City will accept applications. To check for job openings and closing dates, please call the 24-hour job hotline at (510) 238-1111. TDD at (510) 238-6930. The job hotline is updated every Monday morning. If you would like a copy of a job announcement and application, you may visit our website at www.oaklandnet.com or visit the Employment Information Office at 150 Frank H. Ogden Plaza, 2nd Floor, Oakland, California.

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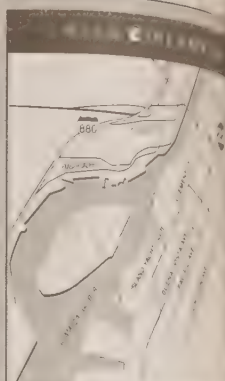
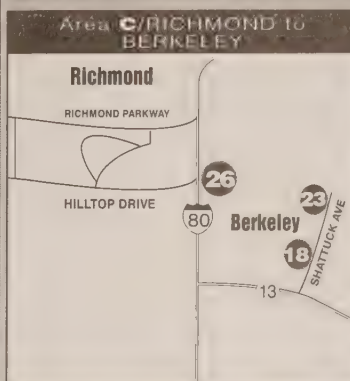
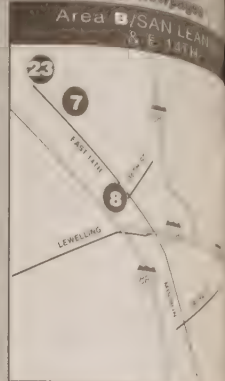
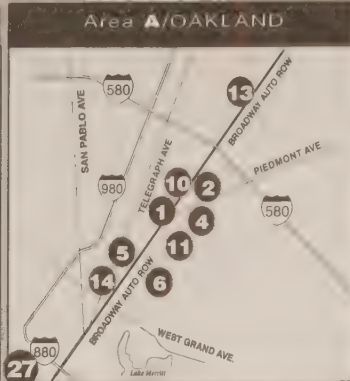
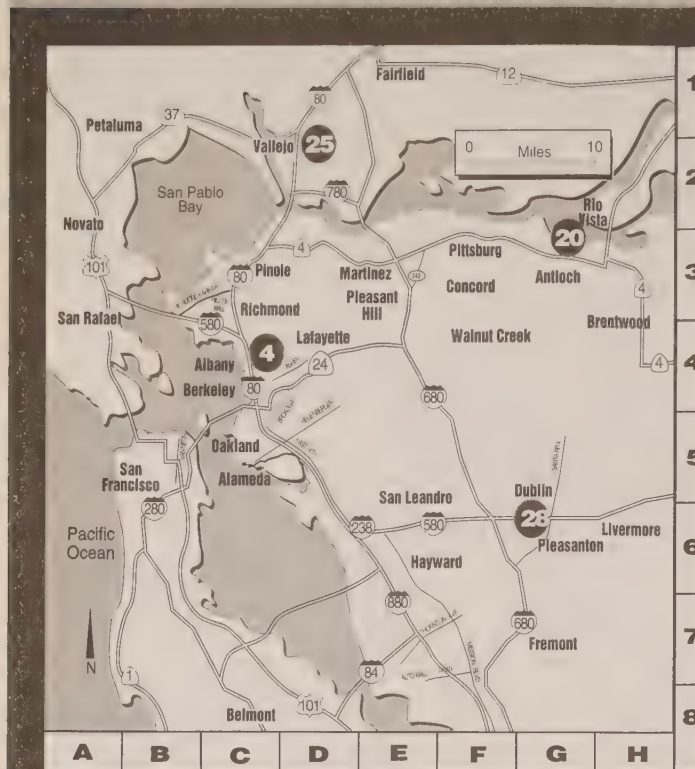
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ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

November 30, 2001

Cast iron, 'the oldest cookware,' offers benefits that get better with age

By JOANNE KEMPINGER
DEMSKI

Forwards, my cast-iron skillet
from my kitchen in my kitchen.
I used it only for decoration. Then,
my brother Jay told me a story.
He had seen a relative using
a Dutch oven as a flower pot.
He said he couldn't believe "such
beautiful antique would have been
used in this manner."

"So I asked her if I could have
it," he recalled. "It was in really
bad shape — so I sandblasted it,
cleaned it up, and I sea-

soned it." He then extolled the many
virtues of cast-iron cookware: its
even heating capabilities, its dura-
bility, a natural non-stick surface,
low price and the fact that the pan
itself adds extra iron to our diets.

At the same day, I dusted off my
own and followed in my brother's
footsteps — as well as in the foot-
steps of some other great cooks.
According to Bob Kellermann,
resident and owner of Lodge
Manufacturing Co., a South Pitts-

burgh, Tenn., firm that has been
making cast-iron cookware since
1858, cast iron is "the oldest cook-
ware known to man."

"Columbus brought it to the
New World in 1492," he said. "It
was used in baronial kitchens in
the 1500s, and Lewis and Clark
used it on their expedition in the
1800s. It was used before alu-

minum or stainless steel appeared
on the map."

Information supplied by Kellermann
also noted that miners ate
cast-iron skillet but also
used their small skillet to pan for
gold. And Mary Washington
(George's mom) considered her
best of cast-iron cookware so
much that she specified in her

will that half her cast-iron kitchen
"furniture" was to be given to one
of her grandsons.

Mara Reid Rogers, author of
"Cooking in Cast Iron, Yesterday's
Flavors for Today's Kitchen" (HP
Books, 2001, \$17.95) says "cast
iron is how America started cook-

ing." "If you watch those spaghetti
westerns, what was hanging on
the backs of those covered wag-
ons? Cast-iron cookware. From
the research I did for my cook-
book, I found that it was the first
non-stick cookware," she said.

It also is used by many top
chefs, she said. In fact, "Paul
Prudhomme made cast iron popu-
lar with his famous blackened
dishes."

Rogers, whose book has 150
recipes that range from hearty
main dishes to delicate desserts
— all made in cast iron — said
she is seeing an increased inter-
est in cast-iron cookware.

"It's about getting back to our
roots. College kids are discover-
ing cast-iron skillets. They're in-
expensive and will outlive all of
us."

People also are looking to cast
iron because they are downsiz-
ing, she added. "You can do a lot
with a skillet."

She said one of the best qual-
ities of cast iron is its even heat-
ing properties. "In cast iron you
can cook something as delicate
as a snow pea pod... or you can
sear a piece of beef."

Another plus is that the pans,
by nature, are non-stick, which
makes them easy to clean. Even
the process of seasoning them is
not difficult, she said.

Another bonus is that these
pieces can go from the oven or
stove top directly to the table. It's
also a healthy way to cook be-

cause iron from the pan is ab-
sorbed into the foods, she said.

New pans need to be sea-
soned before being used, then are
generally wiped with oil after each
cleaning. But after a pan has been
used for a long period of time,
cooks can even eliminate wiping
it with oil after each cleaning. But
Rogers said most cast-iron lovers
don't eliminate this step as it helps
give the pieces a rich color. She
even re-seasons her newer pieces
two to three times a month to
darken them.

To keep from damaging cast-
iron pots and pans, Rogers sug-
gests cooks use wooden utensils.
"I always use my wooden spoon
because it's more gentle. You
don't want anything abrasive. Just
treat it as you would a non-stick
cooking pan," she said.

When storing cast iron, Rogers
said, it's important to pack pots
and pans without their lids on so
that moisture doesn't collect in the
pieces. She said paper toweling
between the pieces was a good
option, but that they also could
be stored in brown paper bags,
as long as the bag is not sealed
and air can circulate.

Could there possibly be a
downside to cast-iron cooking?

"The only thing it doesn't do
as well, and I really have to scrape
the bottom of the pan to find a
negative," is cook dishes that in-
clude foods with high acid con-
tents, she said.

"If you have a lot of that (acidic
ingredients) they can react to the
pan and give a slight metallic fla-
vor. Then you don't taste the in-
gredients as well. So if, for in-
stance, you are finishing a dish
with vinegar, just take it out of the
cast-iron pan and then add the
vinegar at the end."

Acidic ingredients cooked in

cast iron also can give a "grayish
cast" to the dish. "This is not
harmful — but it's also not the
most perfect presentation," she
said.

Kellermann, whose family has
been in the cast-iron cookware
business for four generations and
105 years, said his firm was
founded by his great-grandfather,
Joseph Lodge, and is now "the
only cast-iron producer in the
U.S."

"All of our cookware is still
made in the same casting
process. We give birth to each
piece. Each one is a little differ-

ent," Kellermann said.

He said his pieces are all made
in sand molds — just as they were
when the firm first started. Only
today, instead of the molds being
made by hand, they are made by
machine.

Kellermann's firm makes 100
to 150 different pieces, which in-
clude accessories. "We make
cookware for indoor and outdoor
use. We make two varieties of
Dutch ovens. We have a flat bot-
tomed Dutch oven for kitchen use
— for stews, pot roasts and chili
— and a footed Dutch oven.

"We call it (the latter) our camp

oven. The lid has a flange around
the rim to contain charcoal. You
put heat on top of the oven and
below the pot. You can bake
bread in it — you can do anything
and everything outdoors in these
footed pots," he said.

Along with Rogers, Kellermann
he believes cast-iron cookware is
top-notch due to its heat retention
capabilities, non-stick surface and
low price. He also said they are
attractive.

"If you have a black iron skil-
let, after years of use it has a

See CAST IRON Page 2



THE MANY VIRTUES of cast-iron cookware: its even heating capabilities, its durability, a natural non-stick surface, low price and the fact that the pan itself adds extra iron to our diets.

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VISA

Cast iron

FROM PAGE 1

beautiful patina. They are as slick as a baby's bottom. And it's heirloom cookware. You can pass it down from generation to generation. We gave some pieces that date back to our grandfathers' that are still used, he said.

Kellermann said he takes pride in the fact that his firm produces high-quality pieces at a low cost. "We've survived 105 years because we are quality-oriented. We wouldn't have survived if we were putting junk on the market."

He said that today many firms are having cast-iron pieces made in other countries, then selling them cheaper. But then the quality is not monitored, and these pieces are often flawed.

At the Lodge Web site (www.lodgefurniture.com) a five-piece starter kit costs \$63.95. It includes two skillets, a 5-quart Dutch oven and a griddle. Shipping adds less than you might think. For this 26-pound kit, it is \$10.

"That would be a good starting set for a young homemaker," he said. What does he consider his most essential pot or pan?

"A skillet, in the 12-inch range. And that's the most popular for most folks. Some time ago someone did an article on the 10 most essential pieces in a kitchen, and a cast-iron skillet was voted one of (them)."

Kathy Poshek, owner of The Grand Gourmet, 18900 W. Blue Mound Road, Brookfield, Wis., said although cast-iron cookware is popular throughout the United States, her customers prefer pieces from the Le Creuset line, which are made of cast iron but have a "porcelain-enamel coating inside and out."

"We sell quite a bit of that," she said, and the line has a wide variety of pieces available. Like regular cast-iron cookware, it can go from stove top to oven to table. "A lot of people want regular cast iron vs. the coated style because it is supposed to give iron to the diet. And it's quite inexpensive," she said.

But, she added, there are also benefits to the line she sells. "There is no need to season them. And they can be cleaned very thoroughly. You can't scrub real cast iron. And the porcelain/enamel coated pieces won't impart any taste." She believes the line of coated cookware is also more attractive to some consumers because they come in colors.

She said that regular cast iron must be handled differently and this discourages some cooks "because they might not have success when they attempt to season their pans."

Le Creuset does cost more. A 10-inch skillet runs \$80; a \$12-inch skillet, \$95. Poshek's store sells 15 to 30 pieces in the line.

And like old-fashioned cast-iron cookware, the coated cookware also is very durable. "With reasonable care, it can last you forever," she said. Cast-iron cookware, including Lodge products, can be found at stores that sell camping equipment, restaurant equipment, such as Boelter's in Milwaukee, and cookware stores, such as Gourmet Outfitters in Mequon and through various sites on the Internet.

How to properly care for your cast iron cookware

BY JOANNE KEMPINGER DEMSKI

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Mara Reid Rogers, author of "Cooking in Cast Iron," gives these tips on how to care for cast-iron cookware. She says although these pieces need little care other than seasoning, cooks who are not familiar with the process may believe that it is a difficult and/or time-consuming task.

Seasoning

Seasoning is "the process of allowing oil to be absorbed into the iron, creating a non-stick, rustproof finish. Cast-iron cookware will turn black, smooth and fairly shiny with accumulative use; these are the visual signs that it's seasoned well. The pores of the iron will be sealed, providing a durable coating that helps to prevent sticking and rusting."

"All new cast-iron cookware must be seasoned prior to use. And periodically, you may want to re-season it. First, peel off and discard any labels. Wash thoroughly with mild dishwashing liquid, rinse with hot water and dry thoroughly with a kitchen towel. Never allow cast-iron cookware to air dry, and never wash it in the dishwasher."

"Next, spray or use a paper towel to wipe a thin, even layer of vegetable oil cooking spray (with no flavorings or salt added), vegetable oil, or vegetable shortening over the entire surface" of the pan, rubbing it in, and wiping away any excess.

This is an important step because otherwise there will be a fat buildup and the cast-iron will smoke when used. It will also smoke when other fats, such as margarine or butter, are used.

"Line the bottom of the oven with foil to catch any drips and preheat to 350 degrees. Place the utensil

upside down to prevent the oil from building up inside the cookware on the center oven rack and bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour to season. Turn off heat and let utensil cool naturally in the oven to room temperature."

"Remove from oven and wipe off any excess oil with a paper towel. The cookware is now ready to use or store for future use."

Cleaning

"After each use, you must clean, wash, dry and re-rub with fat for proper care. Never put cast-iron cookware in the dishwasher; it must be hand washed."

"Many folks never let their cast-iron pieces come into contact with soap; they simply rub it clean with salt, rinse it, and proceed with the drying process."

"Always clean the utensil immediately after each use (be careful if the utensil is still hot) with mild dishwashing liquid and water. Never scour with abrasive detergents; dry thoroughly with a kitchen towel. Never soak or allow to air dry, or the cast-iron will rust."

"Never use metal scouring pad or metal brush. Instead, use a stiff, non-metal scouring pad or brush to remove any stubborn food particles."

Storing

"Place clean, dry paper towel flat on the inside of the cookware to absorb any moisture and help prevent rust and store in a dry place. Always store with the tops or lids off so moisture won't collect inside."

Rust spots

"All unseasoned utensils will rust. Rust spots, stuck-on food, a metallic taste or discolored foods are signals of inadequate or improper seasoning or may result from cooking highly acidic foods. If this occurs, wash thoroughly and re-season."

Holiday tips

HTTP://INTERDEC.ABOUT.COM

Add color. Swag garlands (real or artificial) on banisters, mirrors, armoires, and the mantle.

Learn to fold cloth napkins in one of a dozen decorative ways. How to can be found at http://lininterdec.about.com/library/bl_napfold001.htm.

A colorful poinsettia will add holiday color to your entry hall, dining room sideboard, bathrooms, and guest room. (If your thumb is not green, consider using artificial.)

Gift wrap your plants with some colorful holiday fabric tied around the plant containers.

Add sound. Play Christmas music from CDs or the radio whenever you're home. Tie some sleigh bells onto the front door.

Wake up your kids each morning with bells and "ho, ho, ho".

Watch some Christmas specials on TV. Rent or buy "It's a Wonderful Life", "A Christmas Story", "Scrooge", or "The Santa Clause".



HAZELNUT BROWN BUTTER CAKE with Caramelized Pineapple is a melt-in-your-mouth with a mellow air to it. It is a new creation of pastry chef Cindy Mushet.

Hazelnut butter cake with pineapple glaze has Western flavor

ASSOCIATED PRESS

This hazelnut brown butter cake with caramelized pineapple is a melt-in-your-mouth dessert with a mellow air to it, well suited to this time of year.

Its ingredients give it a West Coast flavor, as combined in a new recipe from pastry chef Cindy Mushet, whose book "Desserts: Mediterranean Flavors, California Style" (Simon & Schuster, 2000, \$30) established her regional expertise.

Here she calls for hazelnuts, grown in Oregon and Washington, and pineapples, grown in Hawaii, to transform a classic butter cake.

HAZELNUT BROWN BUTTER CAKE WITH CARAMELIZED PINEAPPLE

For the cake:
5 ounces (1 cup) whole hazelnuts, toasted and skinned (see note)
1 and 2/3 cups confectioners' sugar

1/3 cup all-purpose flour
5 large egg whites, room temperature
¾ cup (1½ sticks) unsalted butter, browned (see note)

For the pineapple:
½ of a whole fresh pineapple, peeled and cored (or 20-ounce package fresh, pre-cut, Hawaiian pineapple)
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
2 teaspoons sugar
1/3 cup fresh orange juice
2 tablespoons apricot preserves, strained to remove solids

Preheat oven to 350 F, position oven rack in center of oven.
To make the cake:
Place cooled, toasted hazelnuts,

confectioners' sugar and flour in food processor and process until nuts are finely ground. Transfer mixture to medium bowl, add egg whites and whisk. Blend well. Set aside. Increase oven temperature to 450 F.

Lightly butter inside of 9- or 9½-inch fluted tart pan with removable bottom. Pour batter into tart pan on cookie sheet. Bake in 450 F oven for 8 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 400 F. Continue baking for another 8 minutes. Turn oven off, leave cake in oven for an additional 8 minutes. Remove from oven, place on rack to cool briefly. To unmold cake, place on top of a large can so fluted side will fall away. Serve warm.

To store, wrap in foil (plastic may soften crust too much).
To make the pineapple glaze:
Cut pineapple so each serving has 2 to 3 pieces (16 to 24 pieces total). Place large skillet over medium heat and add butter to coat pan. Sprinkle sugar in pan. Turn heat to high and add pineapple, cook for several minutes or until golden brown on both sides. Divide pineapple pieces among dessert plates.

Return skillet to high heat, add orange juice and apricot preserves. Bring mixture to a boil and thickenened sauce over pineapple pieces. Serve immediately.
Preparation 1 hour, 15 minutes; cooking time 24 minutes; 6 servings

Notes: To toast and skin nuts: Spread nuts evenly on a pan. Heat in oven 10 to 12 minutes or until skins begin to blister. Immediately remove from oven and place nuts on clean kitchen towel. Wrap towel around hot nuts and vigorously to remove skins; skins will come off. Cool completely. To brown butter: Melt in small saucepan over low heat, swirling pan occasionally. Butter is melted, increase medium, cook about 5 minutes. Butter will bubble, solids will turn dark brown, and them blacken or butter will burn. Immediately remove pan from heat and pour butter, solids, into batter, whisking thoroughly.
Recipe from the American Dietetic Institute.

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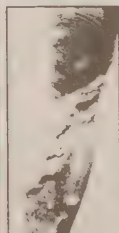
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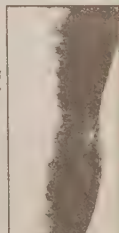
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Leftovers can be tasty follow-up to holiday feasting and snacking

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leftovers are a serious part of the holiday feasting, tasty follow-ups to look forward to, prolonging the treat. Usually, leftovers are built into the cook's master plan — after all, when we're calculating quantities who among us would plan to have not quite enough?

So there they are, reserves of ready-to-eat goodies that may also be easily tweaked into smart new offerings, limited only by cooks' energy levels and imagination.

Here are some ideas to keep up your sleeve for when you feel like a change that won't call for another major kitchen campaign. You may decide you like the sound of them enough to deliberately plan substantial surpluses, to see everyone through a long post-holiday weekend in delicious style.

Remember that the following suggestions can be starting points for your own variations.

The first step is: Never forget to refrigerate. Immediately remove the stuffing from the turkey and put it in a container or plastic bag. Refrigerate it at 40 F to be eaten within two days, or freeze it to be eaten within one month.

To store leftover turkey, immediately remove the meat from the bones. Store sliced or cubed turkey in aluminum foil, and then zip-lock bags. Then, refrigerate or freeze within two hours of roasting.

Good breakfast bets:
For scrambled eggs with a twist, stir leftover vegetables in creamy sauces (such as green bean casserole, creamed peas and onions, broccoli with cheese sauce) into beaten eggs and scramble.

Stir mashed sweet potatoes into pancake or waffle batter for a sweet and hearty breakfast variation. Don't throw away your cranberry sauce. It's a perfect replacement for jam or jelly. Add a touch of honey to it and serve on top of pancakes or waffles for a great breakfast surprise.

Dinner or luncheon delights:
Use leftover stuffing and shredded turkey to make "stuffing patties." Bind with a beaten egg, shape into patties and fry on both sides in a little vegetable oil. Serve with turkey gravy.

Try a turkey-vegetable stir-fry

seasoned with soy sauce and chili oil. For a Southwestern flavor, toss leftover shredded turkey with taco sauce to moisten. Fill taco shells, sprinkle with shredded Cheddar cheese and heat.

You don't have to go to the deli to get a mouthwatering turkey Reuben. Simply place leftover sliced turkey, Swiss cheese, sauerkraut and Russian dressing between slices of rye bread. Grill, turning once until cheese melts.

Turkey can substitute for chicken or other poultry in several recipes. Use leftover turkey in dishes such as Caesar salad, hash, fajitas and chicken a la king.

Leftover turkey carcasses make savory, comforting soups. Place the turkey carcass in a large pot and cover with water. Add two stalks of sliced celery, two sliced carrots and one chopped onion. Bring to a boil and reduce heat to low.

Cover and simmer for at least two hours or until meat falls off the bones. Remove bones and cartilage and chop remaining turkey meat. Add salt and pepper to taste and add cooked rice or noodles to complete the soup.

When you plan your holiday shopping spree, make simple turkey sandwiches for nutritious on-the-go treats. Avoid mayonnaise-based dressing and try a mustard vinaigrette instead, as in the following recipe.

A versatile "gobbling good" turkey salad can be adapted with regional ingredients. It is ideal for takeout sandwiches, or may be served over a bed of lettuce for a lighter meal. It is made with tangy Dijon mustard, cider vinegar and crunchy chopped celery, and has three regional salad variations.

Chopped red apples, diced red onion and toasted almonds go into the Northwest turkey salad, served on a bed of greens or in a wrap. Citrus is the sunny flavor from chopped oranges that combine with scallions in the Florida Keys turkey salad, served over watercress. The New England turkey salad is made with leftover cranberry sauce or relish, toasted chopped walnuts and plump raisins, piled on pumpernickel.

'GOBBLING GOOD' TURKEY SALAD

3 tablespoons cider vinegar
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
½ teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

4 cups cooked, diced turkey
2 celery stalks, finely chopped
In a medium bowl whisk vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper together. Slowly whisk in olive oil. Add diced turkey and celery; toss to mix well. Serve turkey salad on your favorite bread for sandwiches, serve over salad greens, or fill avocado or tomato halves.
Makes 4 servings.

NORTHWEST TURKEY SALAD

Prepare turkey salad as above. Stir in 1 large red apple, cored and finely chopped, ¼ cup finely diced red onion, ¼ cup slivered toasted almonds, chopped, and ¼ cup fresh chopped parsley.

Serve over green leaf lettuce.

FLORIDA KEYS TURKEY SALAD

Prepare turkey salad as above. Stir in 1 large navel orange, peeled and coarsely chopped, 2 scallions, chopped, and 2 teaspoons grated orange peel.

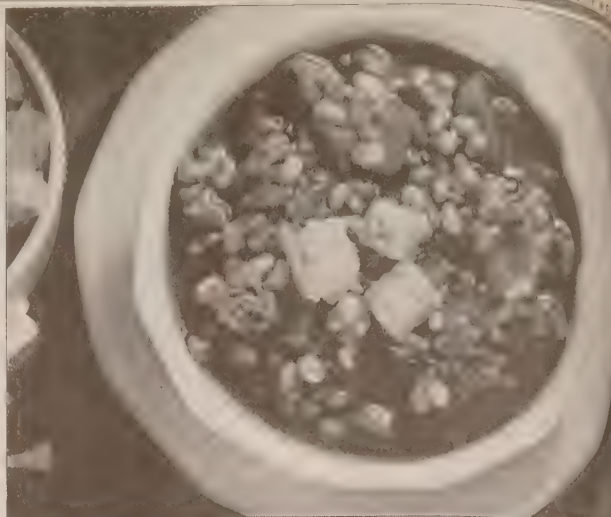
Serve salad over watercress.

NEW ENGLAND TURKEY SALAD

Prepare turkey salad as above. Stir in ½ cup cranberry relish (or leftover cranberry sauce), ½ cup walnuts, toasted and chopped, and ¼ cup raisins, optional.

Recipes from Cutco Cutlery Co. For free kitchen guide with tips on carving turkey, fruit and vegetable cutting, "How To Choose & Use Cutlery," call 800-828-0448 or visit the Web site at <http://www.cutco.com>.

Hills Newspapers Shopping Plus: a great resource for what to cook up this and every weekend.



THIS HARDY BEEF AND BARLEY SOUP can make a meal in itself, or complement other courses. Plenty of vegetables combine with the beef and barley to give it substance, color and flavor.

Beef and barley soup combines substance, color and flavor

ASSOCIATED PRESS

For chilly days, this hearty beef and barley soup can make a meal in itself, or complement other courses. Plenty of vegetables combine with the beef and barley to give it substance, color and flavor.

1 teaspoon thyme
1 bay leaf
Salt and pepper to taste
¼ cup finely chopped fresh parsley
Toasted croutons and/or sour cream, optional

BEEF AND BARLEY SOUP
2 pounds lean ground beef
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 cups sliced carrots
2 cups chopped onion
2 cups sliced celery
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
3 cups cooked pearl barley (recipe follows)
8 cups beef broth
Two 14½-ounce cans Italian-style stewed tomatoes
½ cup red wine

In large pot with lid, cook ground beef over medium-high heat until browned, breaking meat up with fork. Remove meat from pot and set aside. Heat vegetable oil in pot over medium-high heat. Add carrots, onion, celery and garlic; cook about 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender-crisp. Add cooked beef, cooked pearl barley, broth, tomatoes, red wine, thyme and bay leaf. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Bring soup to boil. Reduce heat, cover and cook 20 minutes.

Stir in parsley and serve. Use each serving with toasted croutons or a dollop of sour cream if desired.
Preparation 20 minutes; cooking time 35 minutes. Makes 8 servings.

To cook pearl barley: In medium saucepan with 3 cups water, bring to boil 3 cups water. Add 1 cup pearl barley and return to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and cook 45 minutes or until barley is tender and liquid is absorbed.
You may cook the barley ahead of time, place in an airtight container and refrigerate or freeze for one week. For best results, bring refrigerated or frozen barley to room temperature before using.

Recipe courtesy National Live Stock & Horse Raisin Council

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CARIBBEAN PORK WITH SWEET POTATOES is a rich-tasting version of meat and potatoes but with only 6 grams of fat per serving.

Low-fat cooking: Caribbean Pork With Sweet Potatoes a healthy alternative

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Caribbean pork with sweet potatoes is a rich-tasting version of meat and potatoes but with only 6 grams of fat per serving. The recipe is from Better Homes and Gardens "Make-ahead Cooking" (Meredith, \$24.95). It includes a mango-jicama salsa.
Better yet, there will be plenty of leftover pork to use later in the week. That's part of the premise of the book. Each of its 165 recipes includes suggestions for planning ahead, serving it, and storing and reheating leftovers in subsequent tasty ways to make concoctions.
Here, you use just one-third of the pork roast. You may cut the remaining pork into bite-size strips, dice the strips into two portions, and freeze each half quantity into a self-sealing plastic bag or freezer bag, and refrigerate for up to three months or freeze up to three months—then use as you wish.

CARIBBEAN PORK WITH SWEET POTATOES
1 pound boneless pork top loin (single loin)
1/2 cup Worcestershire sauce
1/2 cup hot pepper sauce
1/2 cup garlic, minced
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme,

crushed
2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1- to 2-inch pieces (1 to 1 1/4 pounds)
1 green onion, sliced
1 recipe Mango-Jicama Salsa (recipe follows)
Trim fat from pork. Combine 3 tablespoons of the Worcestershire sauce, the garlic and thyme. Brush sauce mixture on all sides of pork. Cover and refrigerate 30 minutes.
Place pork on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Insert a meat thermometer. Roast in a 325 F oven for 45 minutes.
Meanwhile, cook sweet potatoes in boiling, lightly salted water about 8 minutes or just until tender; drain. Toss with remaining Worcestershire sauce.
Place sweet potatoes around pork in pan. Continue roasting about 45 minutes or until thermometer registers 155 F. Remove pork from oven; cover with foil and let stand for 15 minutes before carving. (The temperature of the meat will rise 5 degrees F during standing.) Sprinkle green onion over sweet potatoes.
To serve, slice one-third of the pork. Serve sliced pork with the sweet potatoes and mango-jicama salsa.

(To store remaining pork, cut it into bite-size strips; divide the strips into two portions, and place each half quantity into a self-sealing plastic bag or freezer bag. Seal and refrigerate for up to 3 days, or label and freeze up to 3 months.)
Preparation 25 minutes, chill 30 minutes, roasting 1 1/4 hours, standing time 15 minutes. Makes 4 servings.

MANGO-JICAMA SALSA
1 cup chopped fresh pineapple
1 cup peeled, finely diced jicama
1 medium mango, peeled, seeded and chopped
1 large tomato, seeded and diced
1 green onion, sliced
1 or 2 fresh jalapeno peppers, seeded and finely chopped
1 tablespoon lime juice
1/8 teaspoon salt
In a medium mixing bowl combine all ingredients. Cover and refrigerate up to 24 hours.

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Holiday tips

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Choose a menu that is realistic in scope. If you have too many dishes that ultimately will not fit into the oven or refrigerator after you've prepared them, rethink the list.
Any recipes that can go directly from freezer to oven can be prepared in advance in CorningWare bakeware, saving refrigerator space for perishables.
If you have adequate refrigerator space but are short on oven space for re-heating, offer foods that can be served at room temperature.
It's a good idea one week before you begin your holiday meal shopping to do a fridge and freezer clean-out. Toss old condiments, consolidate leftovers into Pyrex and CorningWare storage containers, and make room for all the fresh ingredients you'll be buying over the next few weeks.
While guests are gathering, here's an easy way to offer hot mugs of mulled cider or spiced wine. Heat them two at a time for just two minutes in the microwave. Correlle Enhancements mugs are solid white and complement any Correlle pattern or other dinnerware. Why keep a pot simmering on the stove when you can free up a burner and warm the mug too?

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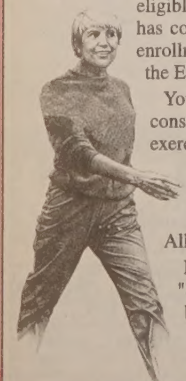
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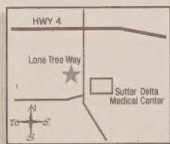
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